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MAY/JUNE 2011

Rev. Lori Gets Comfortable

See page 23

Rose's Sudden Departure Leaves Many Puzzled

Community Addresses LGBT Center Coalition Developments

By Frank Pizzoli

Donna Rose, the first executive director for the LGBT Community Center, has stepped down in what she and the organization are calling an "amicable termination."

Rose's last day was March 18.

"Since joining the LGBT Community Center in November as our first executive director, Donna Rose has been a tireless advocate for the center and its constituents throughout central Pennsylvania," said LGBT Center President Elizabeth "Bebe" Mullaugh in a written statement. "Because of her obvious passion, her excellent public-speaking skills, and her media-relations expertise, she has increased the visibility of the center, created a significant amount of good will in the community and inspired people to reach for their best authentic selves."

However, the statement continued, "differences over how to meet those shared goals and other considerations have brought us to the conclusion that an amicable termination of our formal relationship is in everyone's best interest."

In a statement of her own, Rose acknowledged she and the board had disagreements, but said there was no rancor between the parties. Rose agreed to help ease the transition to a new director.

"Not only do I personally not hold any animosity towards anyone, I find myself appreciating the opportunity I've had to forge a world of new friends and relationships that will last far beyond this role or my residence here. I hope and expect that members of the board feel similarly, and that the end of our relationship truly is an amicable one."

> "The recent and sudden departure of the first executive director has only added to the mystery."
>
> ~ *Jeff Clouser*

Changes suggested

Meanwhile, Jeff Clouser, former president of the Central Pennsylvania Pride Festival (2008-2010,) raised concerns about the center's visibility and the need to share more information about its programs and financial needs.

"My sense is that the community feels they do not have any representation where the board is concerned," Clouser told FAB Committee member Patricia Bucek in response to an email about an upcoming fundraising event. FAB is a center-sponsored fundraising event. Because, Clouser thinks, the community feels disconnected from the board it is unfamiliar with events and programs and what the center does with financial donations.

"FAB is a great event for bringing people of influence together to raise funds," he said. "However the event does not build community or reach those in the community who would actually benefit from using the center."

When the community is asked for money, it wants to "see something they can actually use," he said. "They want to know that the money that they contribute will benefit them and the community where they live."

He pointed to the center's support of the program, Common Roads, which helps teens come to terms with the sexual orientation, as an example of what it needs to do more often.

"The community cannot be expected to show their respect and put their trust in an organization that they really know nothing about," Clouser said. "The recent and sudden departure of the first executive director has only added to the mystery."

Mullaugh welcomed Clouser's comments.

"The kind of conversation I had with Clouser is the first of many such open dialogues we hope to have with other organizations and individuals," she said.

She encouraged those with ideas or concerns to contact her by phone, email or her Facebook page. (The center can be reached at info@centralpalgbtcenter.org, or 717.920-9534. Mullaugh can be reached directly at emullaugh@mwn.com, or 717.237.5243.)

Continued on page 7

Daily Kos and Labor Form Polling Partnership

The liberal-leaning blog site The Daily Kos has teamed with Services Employees International Union to conduct weekly polling, which will include issues important to the LGBT community.

"Daily Kos started polling a few years ago because we were tired of beltway blowhards pretending to know what Americans thought," Daily Kos publisher Markos Moulitsas told Central Voice.

The polling partnership with SEIU and the progressive political community will run through the 2012 election cycle, Moulitsas said.

> "...we were tired of beltway blowhards pretending to know what Americans thought,"
>
> ~ *Markos Moulitsas*

The weekly poll is now the Daily Kos/SEIU Weekly State of the Nation Poll by Public Policy Polling. The organizations will conduct joint issue and horserace polling around national issues and in key electoral states and races.

Moulitsas explained the reasoning for the new partnership.

"Beltway pundits would say "The American people think X,' and I'd shake my head because I didn't know anyone who thought like they did," he said.

Instead of pretending to speak for all Americans, as Moulitsas describes inside the beltway pundits doing, "We thought it would be a good idea to ask them directly, allowing us as progressives to have a realistic picture of where the American public is," he said.

Continued on page 34

MORE INSIDE:

Campbell runs

see p. 34

I am HIV positive
I have choices
I have resources
I can call
toll free to get connected to care
(855) HIV-4359
I can make a positive difference in my life.

60 LGBT Organizations Pledge Action for Workers' Rights

Sixty lgbt organizations nationwide, including Equality Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Diversity Network signed a solidarity document supporting labor's right to collective bargaining.

The coalition's statement:

"As national, state and local organizations for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality, we stand in solidarity with teachers, firefighters, nurses and all workers across this country fighting for their basic rights – for all of our rights. We are one."

Politicians in more than 30 states have proposed anti-union legislation in the 2011 session. Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Tennessee, Iowa and Florida are among a growing number of states with legislatures proposing bills to destroy workers' right to bargain collectively in the workplace.

Hundreds of thousands of state, county and local employees are battling proposals in Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Tennessee, Michigan and Florida that seek to destroy collective bargaining rights, to revoke or restrict "prevailing wage" laws; prevent unions from collecting dues from their members; terminate union negotiated contracts; and remove required binding arbitration.

Politicians' radical attacks on workers' fundamental rights would be devastating for lgbt families, for all workers and for all people committed to progressive change in this country. Whether as lgbt workers or community allies of labor, the moment demands we stand up and stand together.

The extreme attacks on workers rights occurring across the country not only would take opportunities to win lgbt equality "off the table" – they could take the table away entirely.

For decades, labor unions have been on the front lines of the fight for social and economic justice for all people. Union members have long been organizing for pay equity, for fair wages and benefits that allow working people to support their families and to ensure decent and respectful working conditions.

Unions have stood with the lgbt community on core issues such as ENDA, the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the Prop 8 fight in California and supporting the "It Gets Better" movement for lgbt youth. Workers have negotiated and won union contract language to ensure safe work places, to prohibit employment discrimination, and to include vital provisions such as domestic partner benefits, equal access to FMLA, bereavement and sick leave.

The extreme attacks on workers rights occurring across the country not only would take opportunities to win lgbt equality "off the table" – they could take the table away entirely. Having a union and the right to collective bargaining doesn't mean workers don't have hard choices to make in hard times; but a union does mean workers have a voice in deciding how to address those hard times.

The struggles for economic justice and equality are intertwined. In a majority of states, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers can still be fired or discriminated against in hiring or promotions simply because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. For lgbt workers, a legally-binding union contract is often their only protection. And for all workers, the power of standing together with one's coworkers as a union is one of the most effective ways to ensure fair working conditions.

Undermining workers' fundamental rights is bad for all of us. Initiatives such as the so-called "right to work" drive down wages and disproportionately harm women and people of color.

For example:

Union women earn $149 more each week than nonunion women.

Union membership narrows the pay gap for women. Nationally, the gap between men's and women's pay is 32 percent—but between all men and union women, the gap is only 5 percent.

Latino/a union members earn 45 percent ($180) more each week than nonunion Latinos/as.

African Americans earn 30 percent ($140) more each week if they are union members.

Asian American and Pacific Islander workers earn about 14.3 percent or about $2.50 per hour more than non-unionized AAPI workers.

We, the undersigned, pledge to join with Pride at Work and our other labor and community allies – and take action:

Add our voices to the solidarity campaigns for workers rights, inspired by the protestors in Wisconsin, in support of workers' rights, in opposition to "Right to Work" initiatives, and in the shared struggles to protect vital public services, which support all of our communities and strengthen our local economies

Continue to educate our community about issues of workers' rights and the role of labor in fighting for social and economic justice for all people

Engage our state affiliates, chapters and/or local leaders in the coordinated state / local "fight back" efforts.

Mobilize lgbt community support for these unprecedented labor battles."

Contact: 202-637-3988. Full list of endorsing organizations - http://www.pride-atwork.org

Alder Health: May 15 Community Activity Day

Who can argue with being healthy?

Join Alder Health Service s (formerly AIDS Community Alliance), Sunday, May 15, starting at 9 a.m. on Harrisburg's City Island for "Our Health, Our Community" activity day. Being active is a key component of being healthy. Individuals, families, friends are invited to participate in the event.

The day offers individuals in South Central Pennsylvania with a variety of ways to be active and healthy while supporting the efforts of Alder Health Services to improve the health of the community. Individuals may participant in as many or as few of the activities planned for the day.

Three major events are the focus of the day: The 5K, AIDS Walk, and The Drag Race. There is registration fee to participate in the 5K and Drag Race. Participants in all three activities are encouraged to collect pledges in support of their efforts.

All contributions support the HIV/AIDS services, Mental Health Services, STD Screenings and Treatment Services, Health Education Programming and the Primary Care Services offered Alder Health Services. Please note all funds raised by individuals participating in AIDS Walk are designated to support HIV/AIDS services only.

Register: http://www.alderhealth.org/activityday/

Historic Harrisburg Association is moving with purpose to complete and implement its long-term strategic planning process. Complete renovation and upgrading of the one-time bank is the goal. From left to right: John Campbell, executive director, Historic Harrisburg Resource Center which also manages The Broad Street Market through its affiliation with that board of directors; David Morrison, former HHRC executive director and current assistant to the president and executive director, planning and policy administration Harrisburg Area Community College; Tom Robel, grants executive, Harrisburg University and HHRC grants committee member; Richard Gribble, AIA, PEKALA Architecture + Design; attorney Peter Wilson. Central Voice's Frank Pizzoli also serves on the HHRC grants committee. Photo by Frank Pizzoli

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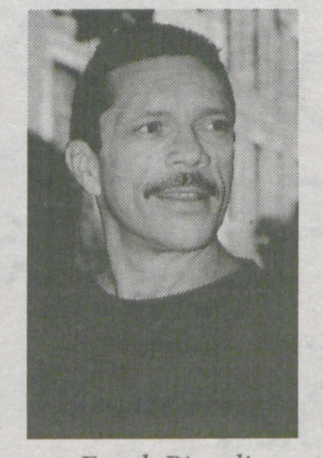
publisher's note

This Is America



Frank Pizzoli

April 8, the day Congress and the White House negotiated until minutes before a midnight deadline would have shut down the federal government, I was in Washington, DC. My brother Joseph and I wanted to enjoy museums and the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

Our hotel was right near the Capital and the White House, making it difficult not to at least check media during what was intended as playtime. Flipping cable channels late Friday night, we watched as talking heads described the roadblock – funding for Planned Parenthood.

Like all social issues that make you want to go "Ugh," the issue of Planned Parenthood and abortions cannot be distilled into a Tweeter's run-on sentence without punctuation to provide clarity. One must balance several facts at the same time. Notice I didn't say "opinions". Hopefully, one arrives at opinions after ruminating over facts. Unfortunately, balancing several facts simultaneously as a critical thinking skill has gone the way of dinosaurs. Think of playing Trivial Pursuit and shouting out all the factually correct singular answers but still being unable to compose a sentence from any two or three related answers.

Not being able to connect the dots, or worse yet, scrambling the dots into a desired conclusion you know isn't supported by fact sounds like the recently-elected Tea Party members now serving in the US House. They hear what they want to hear and say whatever is necessary to get whatever it is they want. Instant gratification isn't fast enough for them. When it comes to compromise, they sound like Groucho Marx in "Horse Feathers," where he sings "Whatever It Is, I'm Against It".

Search Youtube.com for the hilarious clip.

The frosh, and others, wanted to end federal funding to Planned Parenthood because the funding, they claimed, is used to "provide abortions." Their talking points failed to note - like a weasel hiding in the bushes - that PP does not and cannot use federal funds to pay for its clinics' abortion services.

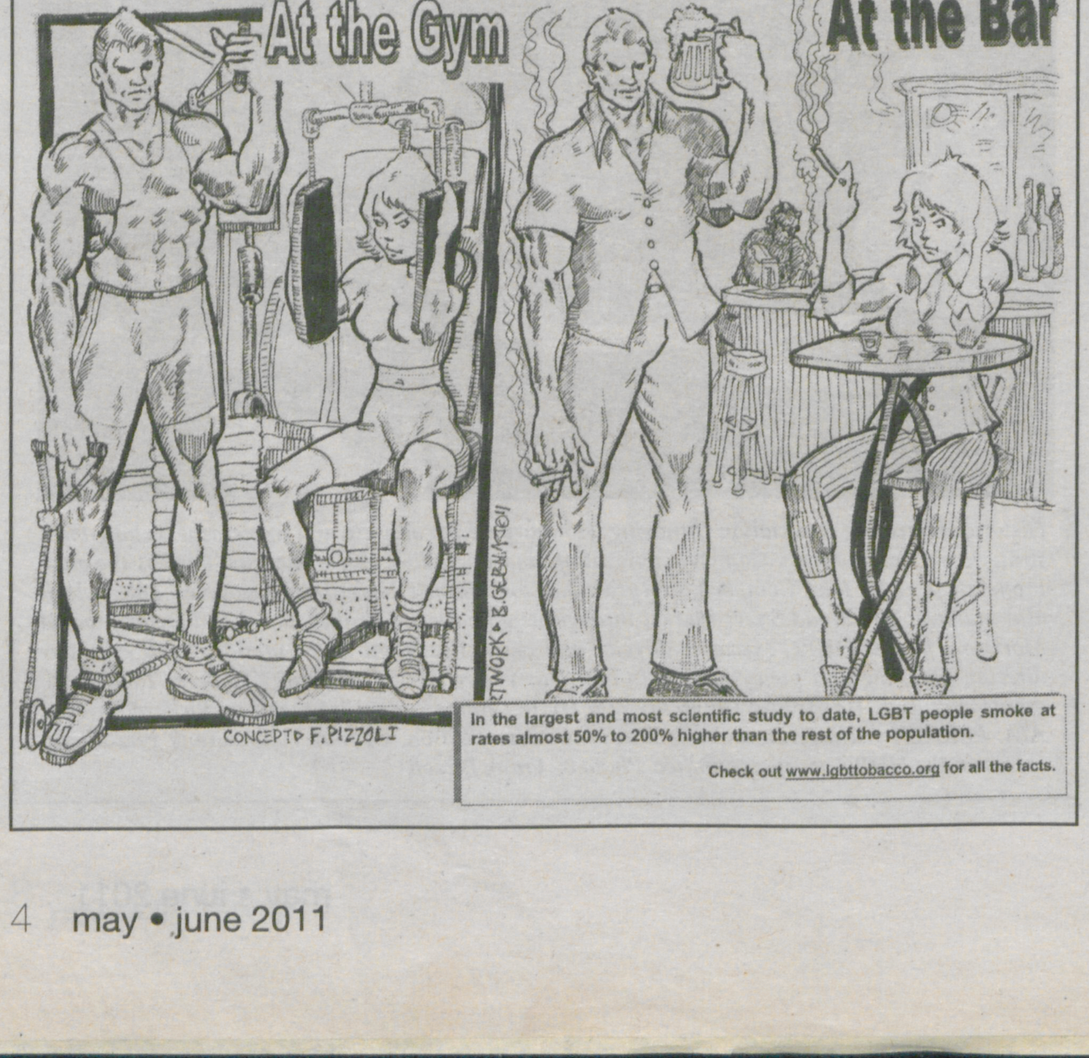
Rather than first relying on facts and then forming opinions afterward, too many members of Congress prefer the less strident route of a no homework night. Instead, whoever shouts the biggest untruth loud enough wins the argument? As if the one who argues better or louder must be right? In other words, we make policy by bullying. Everyone bullies policy rather than making it – Democrats, Republicans, Independents and the Tea Party candidates now serving as freshman members of the US House of Representatives.

"The word compromise is a filthy, evil word" to the freshmen members of the House Republican majority, Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) told the Washington Post's Jonathan Capehart during a phone conversation while budget negotiations languished. Rangel pointed out many (of the new Tea Party representatives) have never held elective office. They campaigned on cutting federal spending and, as freshman, have not learned that the cornerstone of Congress is compromise. Rangel said Tea Party members "must learn [that] when you promise [on the campaign trail] it means you'll do the best you can."

Saturday morning my brother and I saw the results of cooperation and compromise at its best.

We watched the launch of The National Cherry Blossom Festival parade. The festival is a spring celebration commemorating the March 27, 1912 gift of Japanese cherry trees from Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki to the district. Ozaki donated the trees in an effort to enhance the growing friendship between the two nations. Long story short, citizen volunteers David Fairchild and Eliza Scidmore proposed that the Tidal Basin be turned into a "Field of Cherries." First Lady Helen Herron Taft, wife of newly elected president Howard Taft, joined in make it all happen.

All cooperation and compromise. *This* is America.



In the largest and most scientific study to date, LGBT people smoke at rates almost 50% to 200% higher than the rest of the population.

Check out www.lgbttobacco.org for all the facts.

voice box

INSPIRATIONAL
Donna Rose appeared at a recent PFLAG meeting. She was very inspirational and a very wonderful person to be heading up the coalition.
Wayne & Ron on thecentralvoice.ning.com

INSPIRE
What a lovely statement. You'll continue to inspire Donna, in your absence as in your presence. Thanks for the time you shared with us. (Regarding Donna Rose's departing statement on thecentralvoice.ning.com as short-lived executive director of LGBT Community Center.)
Listed on Central Voice's website: thecentralvoice.ning.com

VOTERS
Apparently too many voters do not study history.
Deb on thecentralvoice.ning.com

GET EVEN?
GetEqual is an incredible waste of $1 million, most of which went to the salaries of a half-dozen self-described "activists." These circus-activists didn't change any minds or votes with their childish stunts, they only made people laugh at us. There are many deserving organizations that could have used the $1 million that they used to pay themselves. It's 2011 and we don't need paid-activists that are more concerned with their income than our equality. GE was a bad experiment. They never had more than a dozen people at their stunts because we know these actions are ineffective. GE is simply about raising money (for their salaries), not accomplishing anything real.
AndrewW at thecentralvoice.ning.com

TRANS EQUALITY
Will transpersons be able to openly serve? I served for 16 years and although it was hidden, I was considered qualified for service until I decided to not re-enlist. I was honorably discharged in 1991.
A reader at thecentralvoice.ning.com

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

Farm Bureau: Chesapeake Bay Regulations Threaten Agriculture

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

America's farmers are being challenged by an onslaught of regulations and other requirements being issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, according to Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Carl Shaffer, who testified today on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) before a House Agriculture subcommittee.

Shaffer said that nowhere is the impact of EPA activity more obvious than in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, where EPA's recently finalized Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) guidelines could push hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland out of production.

"EPA itself projects that roughly 20 percent of cropped land in the watershed (about 600,000 acres) will have to be removed from production and be converted to grassland or forest in order to achieve the required loading reductions," said Shaffer, a member of the AFBF board of directors and executive committee.

Shaffer said EPA's over-reaching focus on agriculture is particularly troublesome because agriculture has worked successfully with the Agriculture Department to reduce its environmental impact on the Chesapeake Bay.

"Use of crop inputs is declining. No-till farming has reduced soil erosion and resulted in more carbon being stored in the soil. Milk today is produced from far fewer cows. Nitrogen use efficiency has consistently improved. Farmers are proud that their environmental footprint is dramatically smaller today than it was 50 years ago, and we are committed to continuing this progress," added Shaffer.

Shaffer, a Columbia County green bean, corn and wheat farmer, said agriculture's success in reducing nutrients in the Chesapeake Bay is well documented, but EPA has ignored the substantial effort and progress of recent years. A new report from USDA's National Resource Conservation Service outlines the progress made by agriculture.

"EPA moved forward with an aggressive and unnecessarily inflexible new plan to regulate farming practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed," Shaffer testified. "In the last two years, EPA has set in motion a significant number of new regulations that will fundamentally alter the face of agriculture, not just in the bay, but nationwide. These new regulations will determine how farmers raise crops and livestock and will increase the likelihood of expensive lawsuits filed by activist organizations."

Shaffer warned that policies already in place or being considered by EPA will greatly extend federal control over crop farmers and livestock producers, regardless of their size or footprint. "Farm Bureau believes that EPA is intentionally working to circumvent Congress's deliberate decision to leave regulation of non-point sources to the states," continued Shaffer.

In his testimony, Shaffer said EPA's "pollution diet" for the Chesapeake Bay unlawfully micromanages states, as well as the farmers, homeowners and businesses within the region by imposing specific pollutant "allocations" on activities such as farming and homebuilding, sometimes down to the level of individual operations.

"The federal Clean Water Act does not authorize such binding (EPA) allocations. Instead, the Clean Water Act requires that states decide how to improve water quality, including allocations of loading among sources, and to take into account economic and social impacts on local businesses and communities. EPA claims to be working in 'partnership' with the states, but by including its own 'allocations' in the TMDL, it is exercising control by unlawfully limiting the states' flexibility to change and adapt their plans. We believe EPA should be held accountable to the laws that prescribe how it regulates production agriculture and that it should rely on sound science in its proceedings," concluded Shaffer.

AFBF and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau recently filed suit challenging the EPA's authority to implement its TMDL measure in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

If You Tax It They Will Leave

By: Lowman S. Henry

"If you want to go to work you can find a job."

How many places in Pennsylvania, in fact in America can make that boast? They can in Bradford County where County Commissioner Doug McLinko explains that drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale deposit has been an economic boom for his region - this while the rest of the nation suffers through the biggest recession since the Great Depression.

One reason for the boom is that Pennsylvania has not killed off the still developing natural gas industry by enacting a severance tax that would make the activity less profitable and choke off or at least slow down the economic development which is currently taking place. But, there is growing political pressure to enact additional taxes on gas drillers.

It should be pointed out that the companies drilling in the Marcellus Shale region are already paying every tax that is levied on every other business in the state. Severance tax supporters portray the gas companies as virtual robber barons who are pillaging Penn's Woods' natural resources and paying nothing for the privilege. That is simply not true. Pennsylvania has some of the highest corporate taxes in the nation. In fact we are the only state to impose both a Corporate Net Income Tax and a Capital Stock and Franchise Tax. The oppressive nature of the commonwealth's taxes is one reason why our economy has struggled in recent decades.

Proposed steep cuts in K-12 public education and state support for higher education have added to the pressure for enactment of a severance tax. But the education community in Pennsylvania has been living high off the hog for many years, receiving budget increases far above the rate of inflation during both good times and bad. The education establishment finally got too greedy by attempting to incorporate temporary federal stimulus money into its funding base, and now must deal with budget cuts.

The two issues should not be intermingled. No one industry in Pennsylvania should be singled out to pay for the overspending by state government in education and other areas. To over-tax gas drilling would simply put the brakes on development of the resource. The result of that would be a steep decline in the taxes they already pay, essentially negating the revenue from the severance tax. It is all rather academic, however, as Governor Tom Corbett has pledged not to raise taxes. Just last week, as the Marcellus Shale Commission began its work, Lt. Governor Jim Cawley stated flatly: "A severance tax is off the table."

But possible impact fees are on the table. The danger is that impact fees could become a Trojan horse for implementing a state tax. There is logic behind the state empowering counties and municipalities in the Marcellus Shale region to impose impact fees to mitigate local infrastructure and environmental damage. Such taxing decisions should be made locally, by county commissioners and township supervisors, with the money flowing into their coffers not into the abyss in Harrisburg.

Some at the capitol are already preparing to try and grab a share of the treasure. A spokesman for Senate President Pro Tempore Joseph Scarnati is suggesting impact fees include funding for the state's Growing Greener initiative. When an impact fee bill begins its trip through the legislative process look for others to add their favored projects or programs to the proposed law. In an era of cuts, lawmakers will circle this bill like starving buzzards above a carcass.

If a bill gets larded up with anything other than a local option impact fee it will certainly invite a gubernatorial veto. Levying an impact fee with any portion of the proceeds going to the state would be a clear violation of the governor's no new taxes pledge. Allowing counties and municipalities to assess fees dedicated solely for restoring infrastructure damage is not.

The problem is leadership in the state senate still ascribes to the old school thinking that Pennsylvania has a revenue problem. Tom Corbett, having come to power in the age of the Tea party, understands that we have a spending problem. That is why he has not singled out one industry for extra taxation, and proposed a budget that spends within our means. Given that the old tax and spend mentality got us into the current fiscal mess, the time has come to try Corbett's different approach.

Lowman S. Henry is Chairman & CEO of the Lincoln Institute and host of the weekly Lincoln Radio Journal. lhenry@lincolninstitute.org.

your voice

PennFuture Lauds EPA Proposed Mercury Rules

"These standards are long overdue. It's about time we had strong protections against toxic mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants."

Charles McPhedran
Chair of the PennFuture law staff

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) today praised the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new proposed rules to restrict toxic pollution, including mercury, from power plants. PennFuture had successfully campaigned for a similar statewide rule in 2006, which Pennsylvania courts overturned after a separate decision in a federal proceeding.

"These standards are long overdue," said Charles McPhedran, chair of the PennFuture law staff. "It's about time we had strong protections against toxic mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants.

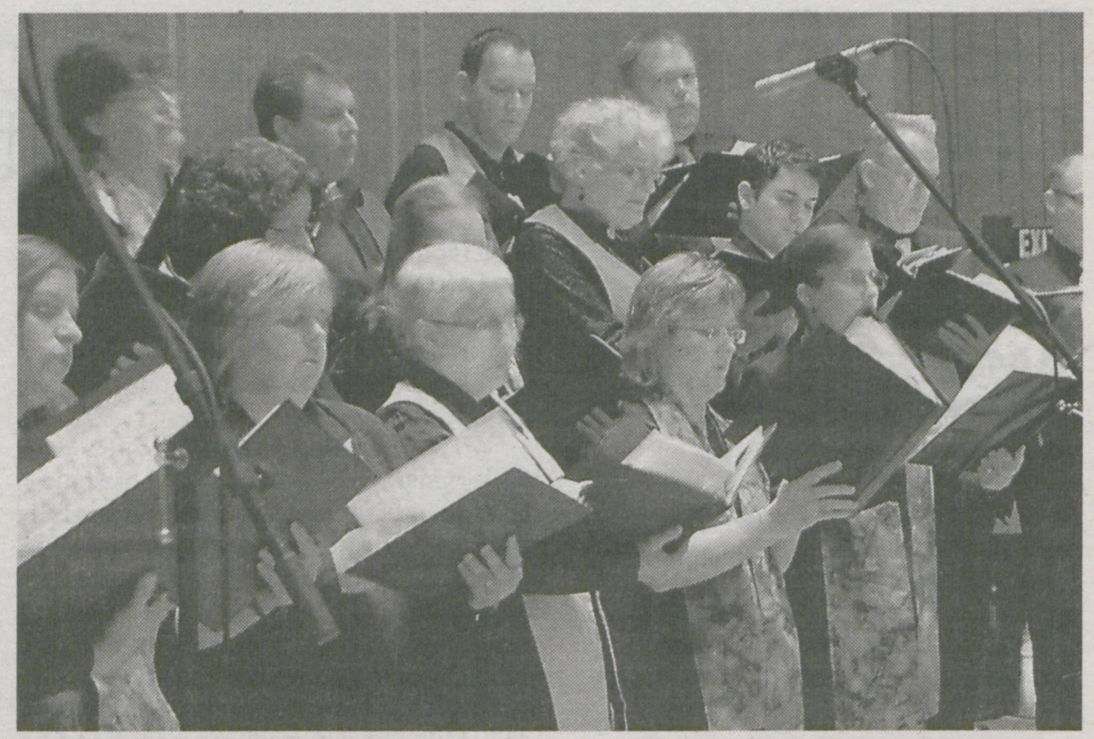
"This proposed rule is a major victory in the fight to protect babies from mercury pollution, which risk brain damage and other neurological problems," said McPhedran. "Once the rule is in force, power plants will have to cut pollution of mercury and other toxics into our air.

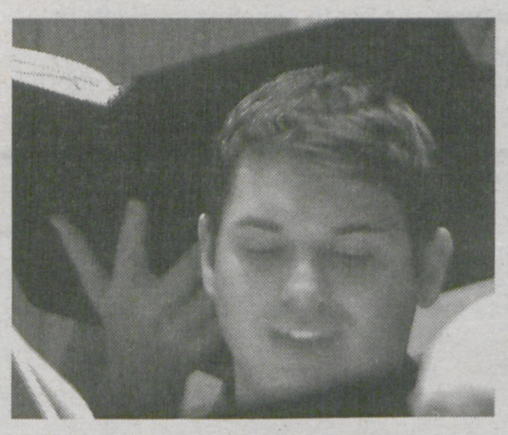
"We wanted this type of protection when we successfully fought to have Pennsylvania adopt a strict rule – one which required our power plants to clean up toxic mercury by 90 percent," said McPhedran. "Dozens of other organizations – from pediatricians and nurses to hunters and anglers to the PTA, churches and environmental and conservation organizations – joined our fight. We were disappointed that our rule was rejected by the courts because of the federal court decision, but we are heartened by today's strong rules coming from the EPA.

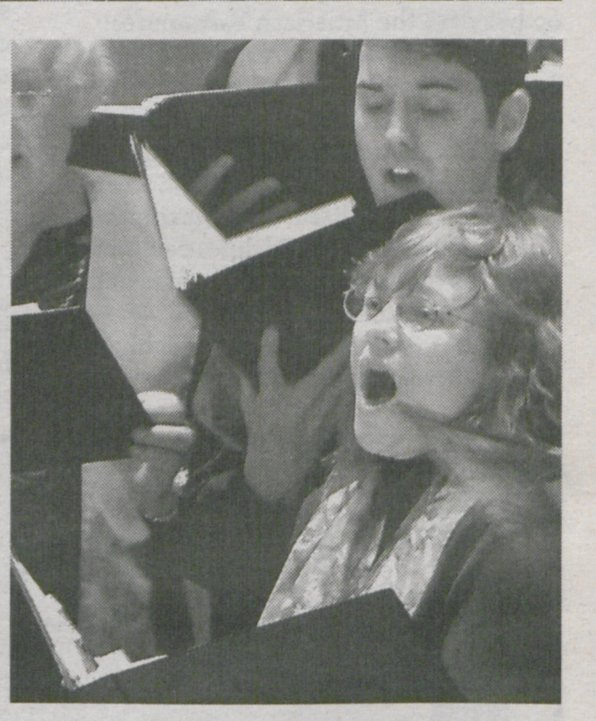
"Pennsylvania is ground zero for mercury pollution from coal power plants, and the benefits of cleanup will start here," said McPhedran. "PennFuture will welcome EPA and the rest of the nation to Philadelphia for the hearing on this proposal."

Toxic mercury pollution from power plants threatens the health of women and their babies. It has been estimated that more than 600,000 women of childbearing age nationwide have amounts of mercury in their blood over the level set as safe by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Academy of Sciences. Unsafe levels of mercury in mothers' blood and breast milk can interfere with the proper development of babies' brains and neurological systems and can lead to learning and attention disabilities, problems with coordination, lowered IQs and even mental retardation.

Pennsylvania power plants are the second biggest emitters of toxic mercury pollution in the country. The Fish and Boat Commission has issued advisories that cover every lake, river and stream in the state that warns people to limit eating fish caught here.

Voices of Pride

Voices of Pride, a recent combined chorus presentation at Dickinson College featured the college's Voices of Spirit, Central PA Womyn's Chorus, Harrisburg Men's Chorus, and other lgbt college groups. *Photos by Angela Dicks https://picasaweb.google.com/avdicks/VoicesOfPride022711*





Sierra Club Condemns DEP Inspector Limits

Submitted by Sierra Club

The Sierra Club has condemned the latest Corbett administration's action to limit enforcement actions by the state's oil and gas inspectors. Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer issued a directive March 23 forbidding DEP oil and gas inspectors from issuing notices of violation without preapproval by himself as secretary.

Notices of violations are warnings to gas well operators indicating that they have a problem that needs to be corrected. The operators can either fix the problem or dispute the notice if they think it was wrongly issued.

Jeff Schmidt, chapter director, Pennsylvania Sierra Club stated: "Notices of violations are a vital part of the enforcement program. A delay in the issuance a notice of violation will mean that hundreds of operational problems can go uncorrected. At Pennsylvania well pads, contaminated water can be spilled, workers can be injured and killed from accidents, and local emergency personnel will be put at risk because the notices of violation are not being issued promptly. This directive only serves to handcuff the environmental cops on the beat."

Schmidt continued, "The Corbett administration promised tough enforcement of the environmental laws when it took office. Unless Secretary Krancer reverses his action, Pennsylvania will suffer environmental pollution, increased exposure to toxic chemicals and possible loss of life."

Parents, Students, Teachers Ask Congress about Bullying

Parents, students and educators concerned about school safety for lgbt students met with senators, representatives and congressional staff recently as part of GLSEN's third annual Safe Schools Advocacy Summit.

Forty participants from 29 states shared moving personal stories that highlight the need for federal leadership to address school harassment and create schools that are welcoming for all students. More than 90 meetings took place with Congressional representatives, including every member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

"Everyone deserves to feel safe at school, and these bills would make it so nobody would feel left behind or left out at all," said Ben Noyes, a straight student from New Hampshire who was himself bullied and assaulted because he was perceived as gay and has a brother who is openly gay. "I feel good after telling members of Congress about the bullying I've experienced since my brother came out, because they showed they care, were on board and wanted to help out."

The Safe Schools Improvement Act was introduced with bipartisan support on March 8, 2011 by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) and Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL). The bill would require schools to implement comprehensive anti-bullying policies that include enumerated characteristics of students most often targeted, such as race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. A House version will be introduced shortly by Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-CA).

The Student Non-Discrimination Act was introduced by Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) in the House and Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) in the Senate on March 10, 2011. The Student Non-Discrimination Act would make discrimination in schools based on sexual orientation or gender identity against the law. It seeks to prevent the exclusion of students from full participation in school sanctioned events, and includes an exemption for religious schools.

Coalition's Exec. Director Departs Suddenly cont'd from pg 1

Clouser offered the following suggestions to Mullaugh:

• Give the community a stake in the center – Communicate the need for volunteers and let the community know how they can get involved.

• Transparency and Accountability - Promote its accomplishments and explain the costs involved in reaching milestones. The center also needs to outline their future plans and share the details of how they will reach these goals.

• Communications – The board should introduce itself to the community through networking and by highlighting their qualifications and their reasons for serving.

• Responsibility – Consider splitting the director's responsibilities between two people – one with experience in programming, and another to promote and raise funds for the center.

Moving forward

Mullaugh, in response to a CV request for a statement on the board's future plans, said the center will "continue to vigorously support the Common Roads youth and leadership development programming and will work on the further development of programs that have been in the works since before Rose's engagement as executive director."

Though the board is disappointed by recent events, it remains "excited and energized" by future prospects, she said.

The center is on solid financial ground, Mullaugh said, thanks to a grant received last year to compensate an executive director, and net proceeds from FAB 2010 – roughly $10,000 – which have been used to support Common Roads programming and to ongoing administrative expenses.

"The center has had a very successful first quarter," she said.

Mullaugh noted other successful events as signals the center is moving in the right direction. They include:

• The 4th Annual Gay Straight Alliance (for students), which attracted 240 registrants (20 percent over capacity.)

• The Second Annual Butterfly Ball, March 11, an alternative prom for LGBTQ students in the region produced in cooperation with TransCentralPA and Millersville University Allies, was attended by more than 40 students.

• On April 2 Louie Marven, the center's director of education and youth services, received the Wheeler Freedom Award given annually by Freedom Rings, the Lebanon Valley College LGBT group. Marven was recognized for his advocating education and outreach at LVC.

• The Central PA LGBT Aging Network (CPLAN) is moving forward using the Common Roads model. The Network offers support, education, advocacy and outreach to build safe spaces for a vulnerable community, in this case, the aging and senior members of our community.

• The center is using a grant from a national foundation to create opportunities for open and honest discussions among clergy about LGBT issues. The grant will help fund three phases of the Faith Initiative project: a clergy roundtable that will meet monthly to discuss LGBT issues and policies within their congregations.

"In short, despite the obvious setback of having lost a senior staff member, the center's work continues unabated," Mullaugh said.

"We welcome the interest and support of the community through volunteer opportunities, attendance at events and fiscal support," she said. "Each member of the board is available to address specific questions from the community. Please let us know what you are thinking about!"

Are you concerned? Confused? Have questions?

Feel free to email your comments about this story to posops@aol.com. We'll forward your responses directly to the center exactly as you have sent them to CV.

For updates since press time, go to thecentralvoice.ning.com.

community voice

Equality PA Comments on Murray Seidman Murder

Submitted by Equality PA

This past January, a 70-year-old man was stoned to death by a younger friend who alleged the victim made unwanted sexual advances. According to authorities, 28-year-old John Thomas of Lansdowne said he killed Murray Seidman because the Old Testament refers to stoning gay people.

Equality Pennsylvania reaches out with condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Seidman. We offer our sincere support for your loss. The media has reported that he lived a dignified life as an independent man who overcame the challenges of being developmentally disabled, who worked long hours and offered his friendship and a good word to everyone he met. Like so many tragedies, this one is senseless; the loss of Mr. Seidman is one that will be felt by many and hopefully will be recognized for what it is by law enforcement and the lgbt community - a brutal and gruesome crime motivated by the real or perceived notion of the victim's sexuality.

It is impossible for Equality Pennsylvania to let this moment pass by without once more calling attention to the absolute lack of hate crimes protections in Pennsylvania.

Expanded hate crimes protections were passed in 2002 by the General Assembly and signed into law by Republican Governor Mark Schweiker. This law was successfully used by police officers, prosecutors and district attorneys to address a number of serious hate crimes which occurred in the Commonwealth. Unfortunately in May 2008, this law was overturned on a technicality unrelated to the substance of the law itself.

For those who would claim that all crimes are driven by hate, let them pay special attention to the killer's distinct and stated motivation in this heinous act. Surely, nothing could be clearer than the fact that this man was targeted because he was perceived to be both gay and an easy target due to his mental disability. Certainly compassionate people - especially those with the power to change the law to protect all Pennsylvanians - can come to the honorable conclusion that Murray Seidman's death was not something that can be easily brushed aside as just another murder. Rather, it was a malicious act motivated by vicious anti-lgbt hatred. Equality Pennsylvania calls for those in power to use the clarity of this tragic moment to produce a positive result and once again enact a strong hate crimes law that says no individual should be targeted in a violent way for who they are or who they love.

In Pennsylvania, we need a strong Hate Crimes law which adds back into the Ethnic Intimidation and Institutional Vandalism Act" the same protected classes that were signed into the amended law in 2002 ("actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, gender, mental or physical disability, and ancestry."). Equality Pennsylvania is committed to that goal. Our mission is to be the preeminent lgbt advocacy organization for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and work collaboratively to establish a comprehensive network of individuals and organizations united in securing equal rights for the lgbt community.

Info: www.equalitypa.org

Live ♥ Learn ♥ Love

We all deserve to love.

Living with HIV does not change that.

It just means learning how to protect ourselves and others.

Alder Health Services offers HIV+ individuals and their partners an opportunity to engage in educational programs and discussions that help all of us discover how to live, learn and love.

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A five-part workshop that provides tools to decrease the stress often associated with sharing your HIV status with family, friends and partners.

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Interactive discussions on topics such as "Making Safer Sex Fun," "Viral Loads and Risk Reduction," "My partner is Negative, how do I make sure he stays that way"

Individual and Couples Risk-Reduction Consultations
Private consultations on strategies and techniques to reduce the risk for HIV transmission.

HIV Testing for Negative Partners
Getting tested regularly is an important risk-reduction strategy. Both partners can play an active role in accessing HIV testing every three to six months.

For more information call 1.800.867.1550 or visit www.ALDERHEALTH.org

Alder Health Services

Alder Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Alliance) is dedicated to improving the health of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and those struggling with addiction in the South Central Pennsylvania region.

Equality PA Announces Endorsements for May 17 Primary

Equality Pennsylvania has announced its statewide candidate endorsements for the May 17, 2011 Primary election.

Three local candidates made the list: John C. Campbell, Harrisburg City Treasurer, Democrat; Michael Fedor, Cumberland County Commissioner, Democrat; and Brad Koplinski, Harrisburg City Council, Democrat.

"This was a terrific process with a strong pool of interested candidates from which to select," noted Board president, Brian Sims. "We used questionnaires and interviews to come to our decisions, and I think our endorsements provide a unique mix of candidates from across the political spectrum and state. The goal of Equality Pennsylvania is to help elect lgbt people and allies to office everywhere. This is just the beginning."

The complete list of endorsed candidates includes:

- Det Ansinn - Bucks County Commissioner, Democrat
- Geoffrey Brace – Lehigh County Commissioner, Democrat
- Kathryn Boockvar – Judge, Commonwealth Court, Democrat
- John C. Campbell – Harrisburg City Treasurer, Democrat
- Dan Clifford – Judge – 38th Judicial District, Republican
- Sherrie Cohen – Philadelphia City Council, At Large, Democrat
- Geraldine Delevich – New Hope Borough Council, Democrat
- Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia – Bucks County Commissioner, Democrat
- Jeanette Eichenwald – Allentown City Council, Democrat
- Casey Evans – Luzerne County Council, Democrat
- Michael Fedor – Cumberland County Commissioner, Democrat
- Joe Grace – Philadelphia City Council – First District, Democrat
- Gloria L. Hamm – Lehigh County Commissioner, At Large, Democrat
- Brad Koplinski – Harrisburg City Council, Democrat
- Malcolm Lazin – Philadelphia City Council, At Large, Republican
- Hugh F. McGough – Magisterial District Judge for Magisterial District 05-2-35 (Pittsburgh), Democrat
- Lucille Prater-Holliday – Pittsburgh City Council - District 9, Democrat
- Marlene Pray – Doylestown Borough Council -Ward 1, Democrat
- Blondell Reynolds Brown – Philadelphia City Council, At Large, Democrat
- Peter G. Schweyer – Allentown City Council, Democrat
- Elinor Warner – Easton City Council, At Large

Info: www.equalitypa.org

GLSEN Launches Changing the Game Sports Project

In an effort to make K-12 sports and physical education safer and more inclusive for all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, and a diverse coalition of athletes, journalists and sports figures today launch Changing the Game: The GLSEN Sports Project.

"I am really excited to be working with GLSEN to create a Sports Project that will help to make sports and physical education a great experience for every student no matter what their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.,"said GLSEN Sports Project director Pat Griffin, former director of "It Takes a Team Education" campaign for lgbt issues in sports at the Women's Sports Foundation.

The list of advisory group and all-star supporters includes Hall of Fame, Olympic and national champion athletes, award-winning journalists, former college athletic directors and current professional, college and high school coaches.

Among them: Hall of Fame tennis players Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova; ESPN The Magazine and ESPN.com columnist LZ Granderson; Olympic softball medalists Jessica Mendoza and Lauren Lappin; current NFL player Scott Fujita and former NFL player Wade Davis; WNBA player Candice Wiggins; Toronto Maple Leafs president and general manager Brian Burke; National Center for Lesbian Rights Sports project director Helen Carroll; three-time All-American wrestler Hudson Taylor; Outsports.com co-founder Cyd Zeigler; WNBA Coach Lin Dunn; Rugby player Ben Cohen; former MLB player Billy Bean; and former NBA player John Amaechi.

With few existing resources or programs designed to address homophobia and transphobia in K-12 sports, "Changing the Game" fills a critical gap.

Nearly nine out of 10 lgbt youth (84.6%) said they'd experienced harassment in school in the past year because of their sexual orientation and nearly two-thirds (63.7%) because of their gender expression, according to GLSEN's 2009 National School Climate Survey.

Additionally, 61.1% said they felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation.

When asked if there were particular spaces at school they avoided because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable, 35.7% of lgbt student said locker rooms, the highest percentage of any place at school.

Info: http://sports.glsen.org

Reform Bills End "Revolving Door"

PA State Rep. Mike Sturla, D-Lancaster, has introduced legislation that would prohibit the upper-level staff of some state agencies from working in an industry they regulated immediately following their state service.

The bill also places restrictions on who a governor may nominate to fill top posts in his or her administration.

"It is time we end the revolving door between the administration and industry," Sturla said. "If we are interested in adopting effective reforms that remove the ethical ambiguity from those appointed to serve Pennsylvanians at the highest level of state government, these measures are an obvious place to start."

Sturla's legislation would preclude those in high-level executive posts from accepting employment in the industry they regulated for two years after leaving government. The first bill (H.B. 112) would prohibit secretaries and deputy secretaries with regulatory or licensing authority from accepting employment from an industry that they regulated. The second bill (H.B. 113) would make it illegal for all executive-level staff to accept such employment.

"As it stands, it is too attractive for people to establish the regulations that will govern them in their future employment," Sturla said.

Sturla's third bill (H.B. 114) would bar a governor from nominating an individual currently employed by a regulated or licensed industry to head the state agency which is tasked with establishing or monitoring those regulations and licenses. Nominees would be eligible two years after terminating employment within the industry.

"Governor Corbett made the claim that he would be a reform-minded leader; however, several of his own nominations are ethically questionable and could give the appearance that jobs are favors to friends in industry, such nominations would be illegal under legislation like mine," Sturla said.

Sturla added that the language in his bills is similar to the measures he introduced as amendments to reform legislation that was considered in the House. Those amendments were found to be not germane to the bills by a party-line vote.

While there are no guidelines on who a governor may select to fill posts, each appointment must be approved by a majority in the state Senate. Senate confirmation hearings began this week.

Sturla's legislation would take effect immediately after being signed into law.

A Harvey Milk Stamp?

A national campaign has been launched to put lgbt hero Harvey Milk on an US postage stamp. Milk was assassinated while serving as an elected city supervisor in San Francisco. The effort is supported by, among others, Stuart Milk, Cleve Jones, Rev. Troy Perry, Dustin Lance Black, and David Mixner.

Info: harveymilkstampdir@cox.net

HEALTH UPDATE

New Executive Director

The board of the National Coalition for LGBT Health is excited to announce that Hutson W. Inniss has accepted our offer to become the Executive Director of the National Coalition for LGBT Health. He comes to the Coalition with more than 20 years of experience in program management, fund development, and staff supervision, in addition to extensive experience with HIV prevention, lgbt youth, and suicide prevention.

LGBT Health Awareness, Materials Online

2011 LGBT Health Awareness materials are available online. Keep checking back for more updates as new materials come out. Available in Spanish. Resources for use all year long at

http://lgbthealth.webolutionary.com/content/health-awareness-week

Orientation & Gender Identify Impact Patient Health

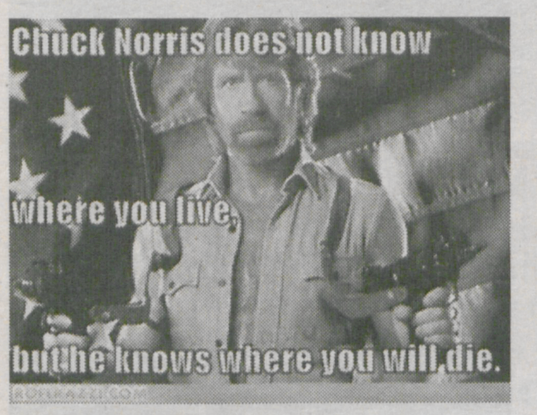
Diane Bruessow of the LBGT Caucus of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) explains how four critical opportunities during the delivery of health care services when knowing sexual orientation and gender identity can impact a patient's health. *Details at http://www.jaapa.com/keeping-up-with-lgbt-health-why-it-matters-to-your-patients/article/197285*

Abstract Submission

The Gay & Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) invites abstract submissions for its 29th Annual Conference, the world's largest scientific meeting focusing on LGBT health, which will take place September 21-25 in Atlanta, GA. This year's conference will place special emphasis on transgender health; LGBT health training for medical, nursing and other health sciences students and providers; and the intersections of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status and their impact on health disparities. In an exciting new partnership, GLMA will also join the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and Southern Comfort in hosting a joint symposium on transgender health on Sunday, September 25. Abstract submissions for the 2011 GLMA Annual Conference are being accepted through March 21. *For more information, please see www.glma.org or contact annualconference@glma.org or (202) 600-8037.*

Abstracts, National LGBTI Health Summit

Abstracts are being accepted until April 20 for the fifth annual National LGBTI Health Summit, which will take place July 16-19, 2011 in Bloomington, IN. The National LGBTI Health Summit is dedicated to preserving and improving the emotional, physical, spiritual, mental, and social health and wellness of LGBTI people. The theme of this year's conference is "At the Crossroads," which emphasizes the conference's mission to reach members of our communities who are marginalized and experience health disparities associated with race, ethnicity, age, and disability as well as the disparities that they face as part of the LGBTI community. *Web site - http://www.nationallgbtihealthsummit.com/abstractsub.html*



Me Thinks She Does Protest Too Much

Let's get this, uh, straight.

Chuck Norris, a man who has done more to glorify violence than almost any other entertainer in Hollywood is expressing deep concern that American schools are spreading a positive message about the lgbt community?

Here is his latest rant on equality:

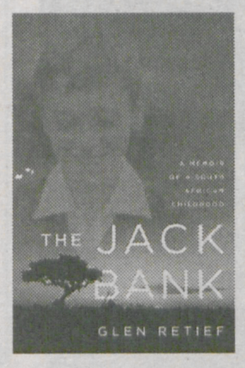
"What happens when the political and public educational pendulum swings from concern for the tyranny of sectarianism in Jefferson's day to secularism in ours? What happens when US public schools become progressive indoctrination camps? Dr. Jim Nelson Black, founder and senior policy analyst of the Sentinel Research Associates in Washington, D.C., wrote an excellent book, "Freefall of the American University." In it, he documents the clear biases pervading our public academic settings. Among that lopsidedness is the intentional training of students to disdain America, freely experiment sexually, forcefully defend issues like abortion and homosexuality, as well as become cultural."

What is it you would prefer? That we vividly illustrate the hacking up of bodies, bypassing the law in vigilantism, torture people for information and making movies with body counts by the dozens? That we ignore, denigrate, outlaw the simple love between two people? Really, gay love is causing the collapse of our education system?

book review

Pack Your Beach Tote with Books

By Lewis Maurer
Dauphin County Library System



Jack Bank, by Glen Retief

Visceral and emotionally complex - an impressive first book.

Retief (English & creative writing, Susquehanna Univ.) grew up in South Africa in a minority within a minority—the son of a moderately progressive, Roman Catholic, English family among the Afrikaners—in a place where one might find lions lazing on the school yard basketball court. His quasi-idyllic childhood ended abruptly when he was sent to a boarding school where the older students used beatings with cricket bats (the "jacks" of the title) as a bizarre currency in a perverse game. The pubescent Retief's growing awareness of his nascent homosexuality didn't help; nor, later, his attraction to black men at a time of heightened racial tensions… This memoir should appeal to LGTB readers looking for something beyond the standard gay coming-of-age story and, incidentally, to anyone interested in the social history of South Africa as apartheid was ending.—Richard J. Violette, Greater Victoria P.L., B.C. Library Journal (02/01/2011): Copyright 2011 Reed Business Information.

Glamazonia the Uncanny Super-Tranny, by Justin Hall with Diego Gomez, Fred Noland & Jon Macy

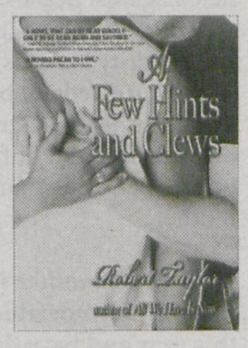
Busting heads and breaking hearts!

Watch as our heroine gains her powers from the bite of a radioactive drag queen, has a three-way with Fidel and Che, and tussles with that witch, Power Princess. Comics have never been so fabulous! A Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Transgender Fiction

Parallel Lies, by Stella Duffy

Wealth, celebrity, sexuality and a tangled web of secrets. . . . Oh boy!

They say the truth matters. Not in Hollywood, it doesn't. In Hollywood you need to lie because Hollywood doesn't need lesbians. That's the deal, and Yana Ivanova is Hollywood's biggest star. So Yana Ivanova has a boyfriend called Jimmy. And a personal assistant called Penny. But hey, they live in a very glamorous closet. A Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Lesbian Mystery



A Few Hints and Clews, by Robert Taylor

A complex, moving novel of love and life

A Few Hints and Clews traces the pasts of two men-from their parents' lives through the historic events of the 20th century--reliving the experience of being gay in America during those years. The novel travels through the confusion of the 1940s and 50s to the Stonewall Revolution through the horror of AIDS and beyond, ultimately emerging as a warm, loving, and hopeful celebration of the courage it takes to throw off fear and uncertainty and live proudly as an openly gay couple.

Report on Gay Health Hailed

Recently the Institutes of Medicine (IOM) released a report, "The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding," that offers a comprehensive overview of the state of health care and health research for lgbt Americans.

The government report is being hailed by both The Williams Institute, a think tank on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy, and The Fenway Institute, historically a leader in lgbt health issues. The report includes lgbt people in federal health data sources and acknowledges the community as a diverse category that crosses gender, age, and racial boundaries.

M.V. Lee Badgett, Williams Institute, said, "LGBT people face many health challenges, as the report makes clear. We know that fixing some of those problems will be relatively easy, while fixing others will require more research. For instance, fixing the fact that lgbt Americans are more likely to be uninsured than heterosexual people is a matter of recognizing same-sex relationships, ending discrimination in taxes, and expanding health care reform. Eliminating other health disparities will be more complicated, but the IOM report is an important step in laying out a new blueprint."

Gary J. Gates, distinguished scholar said, "I applaud the report's clarion call for lgbt inclusion in federal data sources and within publicly-funded research. Let's hope that federal statistical agencies charged with collecting data designed to measure the health and economic well-being of the American population will heed this call. Better data provides the building blocks for future research." Gates was a reviewer for report as it developed The Fenway Institute's Judith B. Bradford, PhD, and Harvey J. Makadon, MD, both sit on the 14-member committee that issued the report.

"The report assembles existing research and makes recommendations for next step priorities. This provides a framework for identifying and reducing health disparities among sexual and gender minorities and directly supports the health of our community. It is truly historic," Makadon said.

coming out column

Queeries: "To spy or not to spy on my girlfriend"

By Steven Petrow

Q: Last week I picked up my girlfriend's cell and read a very intimate text from someone who was no doubt a sexual partner. I completely flipped out and have been thinking about downloading some of the "spy" software that allows you "to find out everything THEY DO on the Internet and computer." Do you think that's a good idea?

A: No. I'd start by asking your girlfriend about the text message you saw and see both what she says and how she acts. But let's say, for arguments sake, you're not satisfied by her response or simply don't trust it. Now, you've got a problem. But it's not one that would be solved by signing up for one of those "I spy" services. Indeed, my understanding is that this spyware can alert you to keywords in her chats, instant messages, emails and can let you see everything she posts on Facebook, every site she visits or searches for, and every photo she's posted. You can also retrieve passwords and logins. Horrifying, I say. Whether or not you find more dirt, you're already proven yourself distrustful -- so what's the point? A relationship dispute is not akin to a court inquisition. Whether by talking more or seeing a couple's counselor, you need to get to the root of the problem, which seems to be lack of trust and/or sexual indiscretion.

"My mother opposes gay marriage, but loves my husband"

Q: My husband and I have been together for over 20 years and were married last October. My mother has said she's very happy and loves my husband. This week at dinner my mother said she was thrilled that "gay marriage was not legal everywhere." Here's the problem: My mother, and especially my stepfather, are rabid Republicans. I know they will continue to follow the Republicans again on this issue. Do I make a big deal about it? Do I point out that they want to deny my husband and me a fundamental right?

A: Now, you understand that age-old adage cautioning people not to discuss politics (or religion) at dinner; it can give you indigestion! (or worse). Since you say your mother loves your husband, I think there's a strong disconnect for her between the personal and the political. What I suggest doing is sitting down with your mother (leave your stepdad out of this) the next time you're together and explain how same-sex couples are discriminated against because we can't marry. Use concrete examples and make comparisons to their marriage. For instance, if your partner dies, explain that you're not eligible for his Social Security benefits, but that your mother is when your stepfather passes. Sadly, you have about 1,100 federal benefits that are denied to gays and lesbians to choose from as your examples. A lot of straight folks have never thought of these inequities, but once pointed out, the inherent unfairness is often quite persuasive. If this doesn't change your mom's mind, then either agree to disagree or ask her to put a lid on it (but nicely because it's your mother).

"This mother-in-law is a Bridezilla!"

Q: My boyfriend and I will be holding a civil partnership ceremony at the end of this year and have decided it will be a simple affair. Neither of us wants a big "traditional" wedding and we are limited to a strict budget in any case. We have gotten the ball rolling and have started organizing everything that needs doing - registry office, hotel, suits, a photographer, etc. My main problem is my future mother-in-law -- up to now I've always had a great relationship with her. Now she's suddenly become a Bridezilla. She insists on being kept up to date on every little detail and wants regular briefings on our progress. She finds fault in everything we do too. (The hotel isn't nice enough and the menu sounds awful for starters.) She keeps asking us to give her jobs to do. I have tried appeasing her by giving her small tasks, but I'm running out of jobs to invent. I have spoken to my boyfriend about her but he doesn't see it as a big deal. He thinks we should just ignore her. But, I can't!

A: If this weren't so difficult for you, I'd have a big laugh about it, because Bridezilla mothers-in-law are such a classic by now – straight brides (and grooms) have had to tolerate them since the beginning of time. Gay couples tend to encounter less of the kind of interference you're describing if only because we usually cover the costs of our own nuptials (when our parents aren't paying, they don't get as much of vote) and we often partner later in life (when our folks have gotten used to us making our own decisions).

But I now see that a mother-in-law is a mother-in-law is a mother-in-law! Hello equality.

You've done everything that you can do; the idea of small tasks is brilliant. It's now up to your boyfriend to take on his mother and set some limits – even if he doesn't see her meddling as a big deal. He needs to do it for you – both for in terms of your wedding but also to establish the right boundaries with your MIL for the years to come. You can tell him I said so!

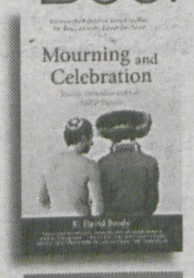
Steven Petrow is the author of the forthcoming book, Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners, www.gaymanners.com. To ask him your personal question: ask@gaymanners.com

Lancaster Arts Hotel Hosts Chamber

Lancaster Arts Hotel hosted the The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of commerce April 6.

Photos by Posh Studio

Book Club Meets 3rd Sunday



The Harrisburg LGBT Book Club meets the third Sunday each month at Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 5 -7 p.m. The ongoing club is a program of the LGBT Community Center Coalition.

Attendees of the popular discussion may or may not have read a particular month's book selection, making the discussion lively. Individuals who voluntarily lead discussions always read the book.

Upcoming books to be discussed include:

- May - Mourning and Celebration, by K. David Brody (John)
- June - Revenge of the Paste Eaters, by Cheryl Peck (Craig)
- July - Rubyfruit Jungle, by Rita Mae Brown (Karen)

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Music by The Billies

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* * *

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ArtsFest Weekend
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SUMMER SOIREE
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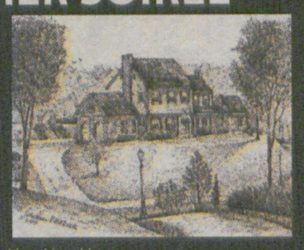

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CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND

Photo by J. Fusco for GPTMC

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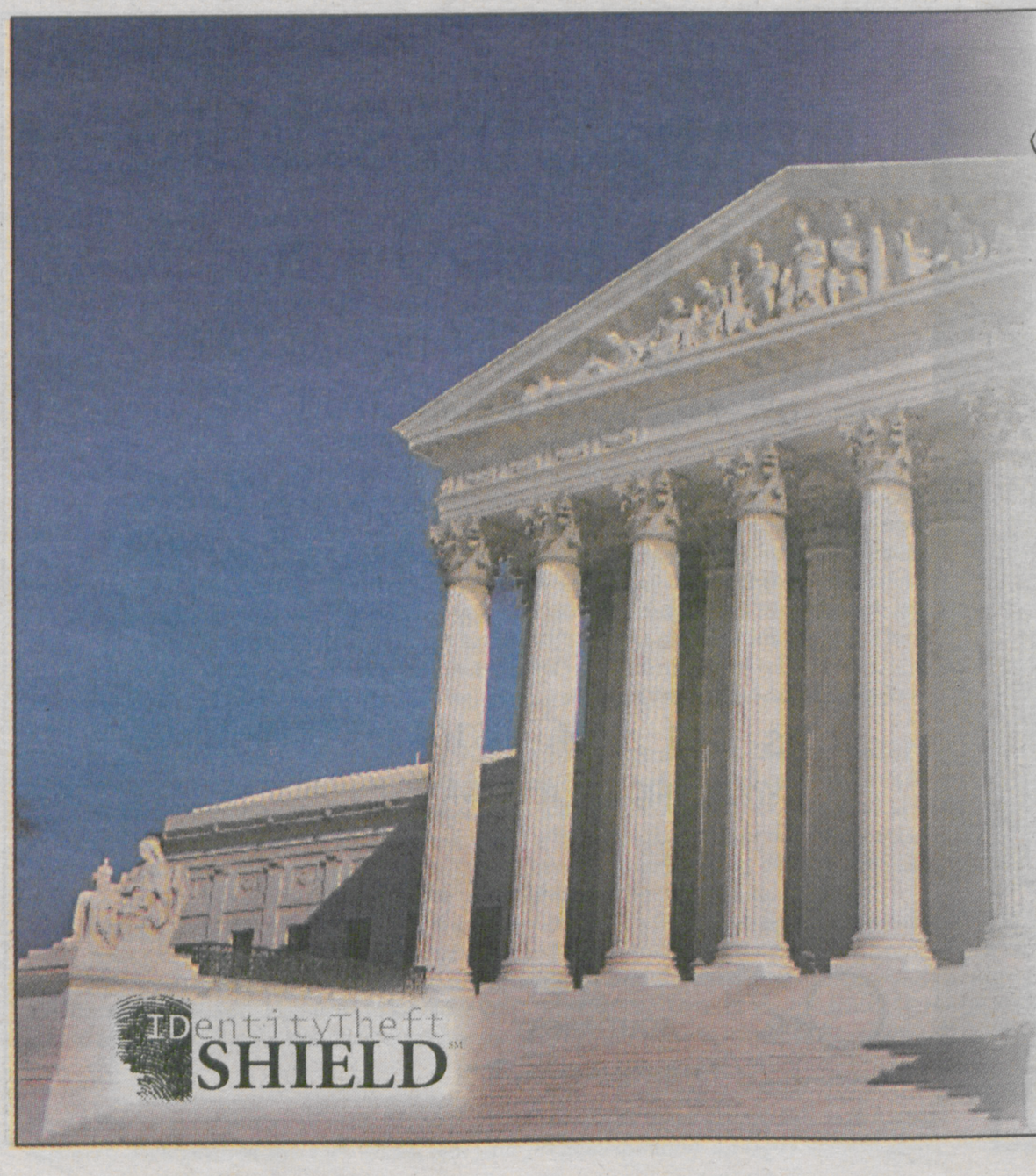

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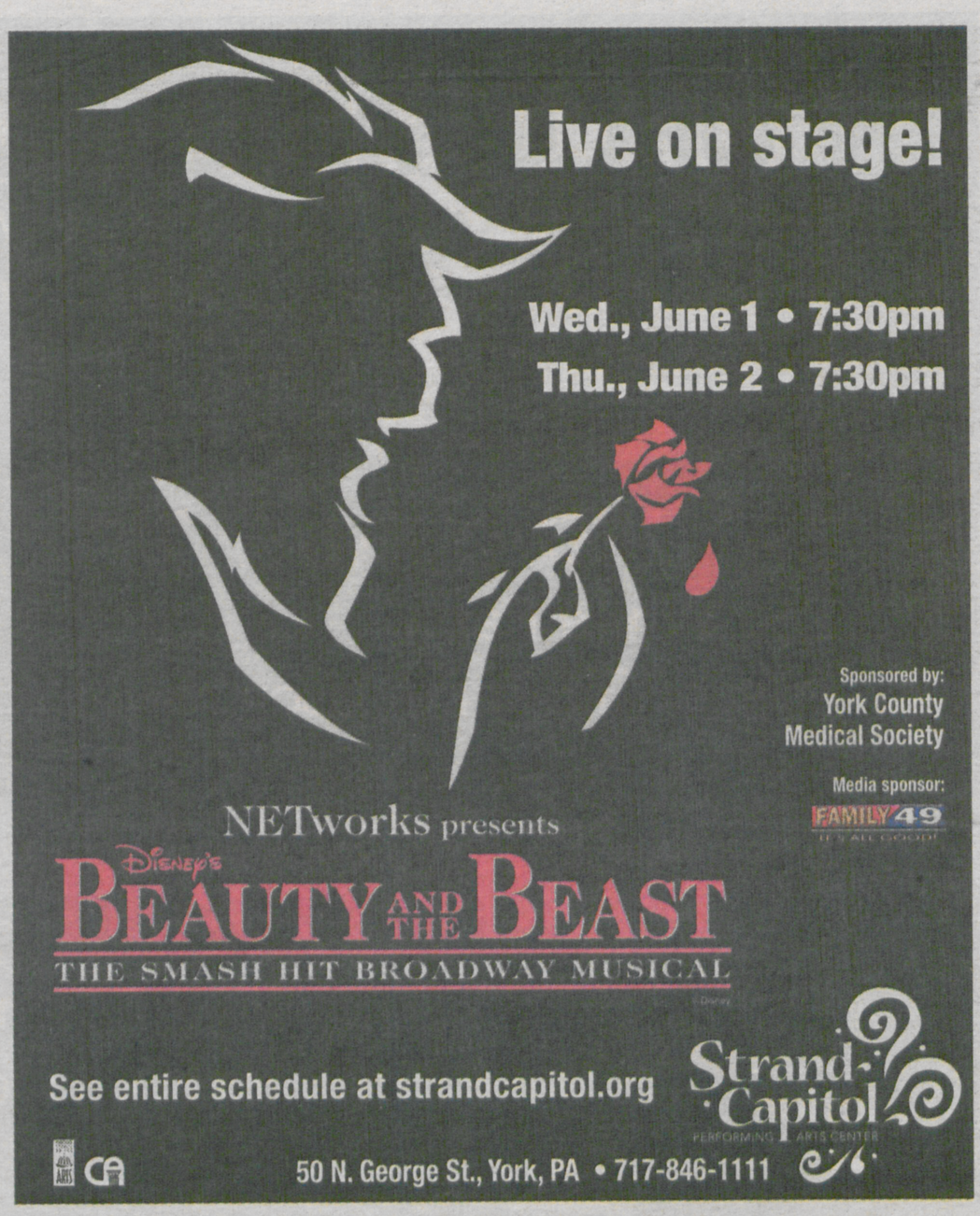

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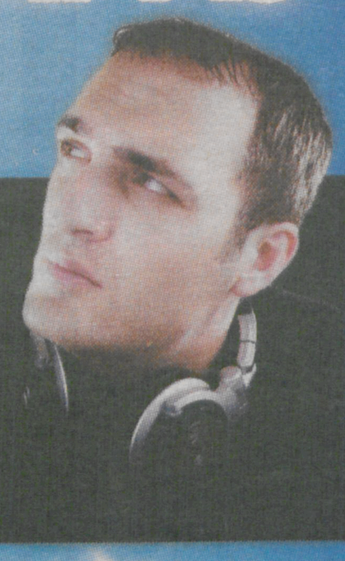

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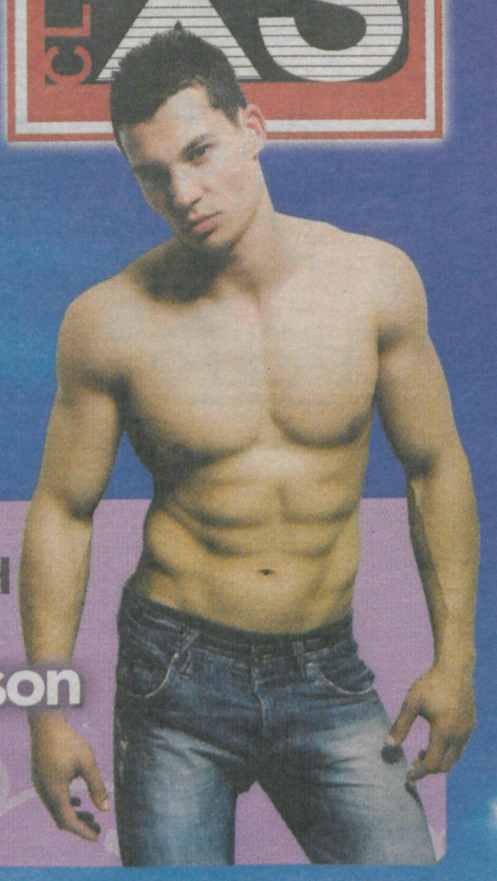

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Chamber on the move

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

'Making Connections' Class Held

By Bill Krenz, Board of Directors
Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

March

The March mixer was held at "Mitrani at Home" in Harrisburg, hosted by Leah Muroff of RSR Realtors, Albert Mitrani and Donna Orbach. Mitrani's store was a fantastic backdrop to a another packed audience.

April

The chamber kicked off its education programming for 2011 with "Making Connections That Make a Difference". The event was held in conjunction with a mixer at Lancaster Arts Hotel April 6. The hotal has sponsored chamber mixers for two consecutive years.

Participants learned helpful hints on how to network with others in public. There were other points on how to grow your small business and make contacts in a variety of different venues. The program was presented by Myles D. Miller, CEO & founder of LEADUP & Milo Service Enterprises LLC. Miller conducted the one-hour workshop.

May

The May 12 mixer will is held at the Paper Lion Gallery, Lemoyne, and will display featured artists selected by the owners.

June

The June 16 mixer will be held at the newly renovated Best Western Premier Hotel, (formally the Four Points Sheraton), Harrisburg. Check out the surprising modern and comfortable venue. See the web site for further details and remember to RSVP via the web site www.cpglcc.org.

The board also supported the TransCentral Keystone Conference, March 9-13, held at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey. I was auctioned off as a date for the event with proceeds benefiting the Butterfly Ball, a program for lgbt youth.

Volunteers

The chamber is looking for volunteers from the business community to participate in committees. If you are thinking of joining an lgbt professional organization, visit our web site listed below. Be sure to check out our website for a directory of lgbt-owned and friendly businesses. The web site is the best source to determine where our community needs to spend its money!

Info: www.cpglcc.org

"It's Raining Men" Martha Wash Says "Open Wallets" for Black and White Party

Martha Wash

Speaking with Central Voice, dance music icon Martha Wash said, "Open your wallets" and support The 5th Annual Black & White Party May 14, 6 p.m at Zembo Shrine Auditorium and Event Complex in Harrisburg.

This year's event is a Broadway theme of "The Show Must Go On".

Wash's classic "It's Raining Men," scored her a Grammy Nomination and is a cult classic. "The Black and White audience is going to have a 'greatest hits' night!" she exclaimed.

"We're going to raise money together" Wash said. Funds raised from the all-volunteer benefit are directed to The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania and York Family First Health. Through a grantmaking process, The AIDS Fund provides money to organizations within the region that help people with HIV/AIDS. Family First Health provides services directly.

You can't escape it. The Black and White Party is all over the region with billboards announcing the event. Look for the billboards – safely – in i-83 at 2nd St. Exit, Harrisburg; Harrisburg Pike/Route 15; Mechanicsburg, Enola, Paxtonia, and Linglestown. The billboards are courtesy of Lamar Advertising.

Info: c.king@theblackandwhiteparty.com, 717-814-8862.

Queens Man Succumbs to Injuries after Alleged Anti-gay Attack

By Boy in Bushwick

Not again!

An 18-year-old Queens man died at Jamaica Hospital March 16 after four teenagers allegedly beat him in what police said was an anti-gay attack.

The Daily News reported four teenagers—Alex Velez, Nolis Ogando, Christopher Lozada and Luis Tabales—attacked Anthony Collao with a metal pipe outside a Woodhaven birthday party on Satuday, March 12. A judge arraigned them later on manslaughter and assault charges. And the teenagers remain held on $100,000 to $200,000 bail.

I want to express my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Anthony Collao," said City Council Speaker Christine Quinn in a statement. "My Council colleagues and I are saddened and disturbed by this outrageous attack. We celebrate diversity in New York City, we do not tolerate bias attacks in any neighborhood in Queens or anywhere else in our great city."

A number of anti-lgbt hate crimes have unfortunately garnered headlines over the lascouple of years. These include José Sucuzhañay's murder on a Bushwick street corner in Dec. 2008, the near-fatal beating of Jack Price outside a College Point bodega in Oct. 2009, gay Puerto Rican teenager Jorge Steven López Mercado's brutal death in Nov. 2009. Gang members also allegedly sodomized and beat two teenagers and a man in the Bronx in October because they reportedly thought one of their recruits was gay.

Collao's death once again proves New York City is not immune to anti-lgbt hate crimes.

Lancaster events

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Lancaster, PA

Northern Lancaster County 50plus EXPO
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Overlook Activities Center, Overlook Park
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Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum
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Alder Health Services

Alder Health Services is dedicated to meeting the health needs of the LGBT Community in South Central PA by providing high-quality health services and education programming.

For more information please call 1.800.867.1550 or visit www.ALDERHEALTH.org

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78th Annual Dover Days May 6-8

For the past 78 years, people from all over the mid-Atlantic region adopt Delaware's capital city - Dover - as their honorary state capital by joining in the celebration of the annual Dover Days Festival. This year's event is May 6-8. Festival admission and parking are free of charge.

The three-day festival celebrates history and heritage.

- Three-day Civil War Encampment begins featuring the 2nd Delaware Regiment Volunteers. Campsite candlelight tours, drills, open-fire cooking demonstrations, weaponry and more;
- Judged Car Show with 25 large trophies and 150 commemorative dash plaques;
- "Tourism Gives Back" outdoor oldies concert featuring The Honeycombs;
- Carnival rides and activities for children;
- Corn Hole Tournament, featuring 32 teams competing for cash awards; and
- Guided lantern tour with historic interpreters of Dover's Green.
- 200+ artisans, crafters, home and trade show, information and food vendors;
- Tours of the Old State House, John Bell House, Woodburn (the Governor's House) and Hall House (the Governor's guest house);
- Close to 20 Colonial and Victorian artisans demonstrating age-old crafts such as blacksmithing, lace bobbin-making, wood-working, spinning, miniature boat building, silhouette cutting and tile-making;
- Kids Zone featuring chalk mural, skating on a synthetic ice rink, water gun games, bungee jumping trampoline, carnival rides, face-painting, sand art and moon bounces;
- Delaware celebrity peach pie eating competition and a children's hula-hoop contest with cash awards; a visit from Mother Goose telling nursery rhymes to toddlers; plus a Colonial musician with a wagonload of historic instruments. A barbershop quartet will stroll and sing on The Green, named among America's Top 10 Public Places in 2009 by the American Planning Association;
- Take action-packed ride in a modern "monster truck" or take a step back in time with steam car rides around The Green as they chug-a-lug along;
- Enjoy the animal show by the Brandywine Zookeepers;
- See Civil War era musicians and dancers;
- Kids carnival rides and a home and trade show for parents;
- Full slate of entertainment at the Schwartz Center for the Arts including the nationally-known Joe Baione Jazz Trio, Centerpoint Christian Rock and Jazz Band; Twilight Ballet and Children's Theater of Dover; and
- The Dover Symphony Orchestra's Dover Days concert Saturday evening.
- Final day of the Civil War encampment activities;
- Special church services at the historic Christ Church; and
- Delaware Antiques Show and Sale at Spence's Bazaar.

Info: www.doverdaysfestival.com, 800-233-5368

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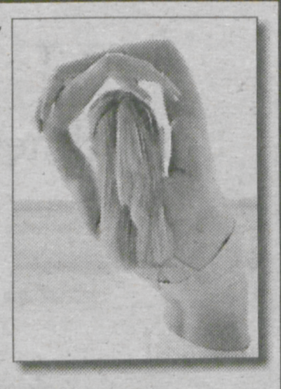

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LGBT community center coalition

CPLAN Program Making Big Strides

By Louie Marven
Director of Education & Youth Services
LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

The LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania is moving briskly forward with CPLAN, the Central Pennsylvania LGBT Aging Network (CPLAN).

A committee of Donald Anklam, Maria Diaz, Douglas Dockey, Dorothy Fulton, Marlene Kanuck, Bob Kegris, Sharon Potter, Michelle Simmons, Mark Smith, and Pat Van Horn met March 26 for a CPLAN strategic planning meeting. The outcomes include a division of specific tasks to be moved forward by various subcommittees: Curriculum Development, Programming/Outreach, Fundraising, and Pride Festival Preparation.

CPLAN
A plan for everybody

CPLAN will use a model similar to that employed by the Center's youth programming arm, Common Roads, in that it will work toward providing regular social programs to a particularly vulnerable population in the LGBT community, while simultaneously training professionals who work with seniors to have the competency to effectively support lgbt clients.

The curriculum development subcommittee will utilize resources like the report "Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults" released in April 2010 by the Movement Advancement Project (www.lgbtmap.org) to pull together a professional training program for senior centers, nursing homes, and other service providers interacting with lgbt older adults. I encourage you all to read this report, as it is truly groundbreaking in putting into numbers the effects of a lifetime of stigma and discrimination faced by seniors. Older adults rely more on families of choice, suffer unequal treatment under the law, and are denied equal access to social security and long-term care, to name just a few significant challenges.

Former volunteer coordinator Zack Ford and I have already implemented one workshop at the West Shore Senior Center in October 2010, and we are poised to continue this essential educational offering. One participant reflecting on the experience noted that while she feels very comfortable working and socializing with lgbt people, our training provided her with a framework to better understand the challenges facing lgbt people that she will not have to consider as an aging straight person.

The Pride subcommittee will work to set up a CPLAN presence at Pride Festival of Central PA, including a hospitality tent where attendees can sit, relax, and learn about the upcoming social opportunities that the Programming/Outreach subcommittee will have been preparing. The Fundraising subcommittee will work to ensure the growth of this program by developing the financial resources to support it.

The mission of the Central Pennsylvania LGBT Aging Network (CPLAN) is to promote a positive and healthy quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in central Pennsylvania by ensuring they continue to be supported, respected and connected as they advance in age. This is a truly exciting venture into filling a huge gap in services, and the Center welcomes your participation, feedback, and financial support to ensure its success.

Contact: To join any of these subcommittees, call 717- 920-9534; info@centralpalgbtcenter.org.

The CPLAN planning committee - Central Pennsylvania LGBT Aging Network – wants to provide regular social programs to the lgbt community and train professionals working with seniors.

Who Is Michael Rios?

By Frank Pizzoli

With a hand-made sign that snagged media attention all over, Michael Rios seems destined to far outlive Andy Warhol's observation that everyone will be famous for only 15-minutes.

Central Voice caught up with Rios, who's 26 and studying web development and design at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Michael Rios

He grew up in what he describes as a very religious Pentecostal home and attended a Baptist high school. "Needless to say I was constantly bombarded with the conservative, Christian viewpoint that being gay is a one-way ticket to hell," he said.

"My parents even tried sending me to therapy when I was younger," he reveals, although that backfired when his therapist eventually told him that there was nothing wrong with him being gay.

"Most of my classmates in school could tell that I was gay and occasionally they joked about it," Rios said. "My teachers just saw me as a sweet, Christian boy, not realizing that every time they spoke out against gays they were speaking out against me."

Rios now attends Harrisburg Area Community College where he finds the environment to be "extremely different, there are openly gay students everywhere, gay groups, gay events, and while I don't attend all of them I do appreciate all that HACC does for lgbt students."

Advocate or activist

Rios wouldn't go so far as to call himself an "activist", though he has attended a fair share of protests. "I've gone to Harrisburg's capitol steps for pro-gay marriage rallies, marched in Washington, DC with thousands of other Americans against anti-gay marriage Prop 8.

"Most recently I attended rally against Harrisburg's Mayor Linda Thompson after hearing that she allegedly made anti-Semitic remarks and allegedly referred to openly gay City Controller Dan Miller as "that homosexual, evil little man".

Formative experiences

What experiences have lead Rios to become the person he is today?

"It was the rejection of my conservative, Christian parents and church when I came out of the closet, followed by the welcoming arms of the gay community and straight allies that helped me to become who I am today," Rios shares. He points to his gay and lesbian friends, themselves having had rough family experiences, who helped him get on his feet "and become more responsible."

He looks up to many people but Rios says his biggest role model is his biological mother.

"I was adopted at a young age, the parents I mentioned earlier are in fact my aunt and uncle, though I still love them as my mom and dad, because my biological parents died of AIDS. He says their illness was a long and tough battle for them. "Nevertheless my mother remained strong; she always looked for the positive things in life, did her best to look after me."

His biological mother was one of the first voices in the church during the late 80's to speak out about how Christians needed to do more for people with HIV. "I may not be the conservative evangelical that she was, but her spirit and fortitude during times of suffering has served as a constant inspiration in my life," Rios said.

Recent Centers for Disease Control data says that in 21 major US cities 20% of the men are HIV-positive. That 44% of that 20% don't know of their HIV infection. That most of the 20% are young gay/bi men age 18-34.

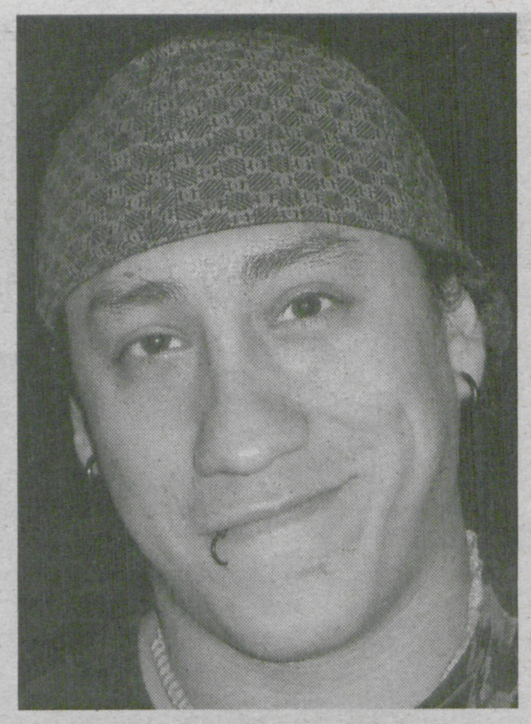
"These statistics honestly make me nauseous. I remember six years ago when I first started going out to Pride festivals and other gay events asking some of my older friends, "How come there are so many more younger gays than there are older gays?" The answer was often, "Because a lot of them are dead".

"I don't know if it's because today's generation hasn't experienced first-hand the deadly impact of HIV and AIDS compared to older generations, but you would think that out of all demographics, gays would be a lot more cautious by now!" Yet, Rios says, he still hears some of his friends talking about how they got so caught up with the passion and romance of the moment that they forgot to use protection.

He also wonders what his parents would have to say about these statistics.

"Obviously they were not gay/bi men, they were two married, heterosexual, evangelical Christians who ended up with HIV. If they were still alive I'm sure they would've had some major issues with me coming out of the closet; however, I strongly believe that they would have grown past any issues with me being gay and that they would play active roles in my life by educating me about HIV while constantly encouraging me to make smart decisions in my love life," Rios said.

Rios points out that to many in the gay community, friends are as close as, and often replace rejecting families. "We should each make sure that all of our friends are educated about the dangers of HIV. We should constantly be encouraging each other to make safer decisions about sex. "If you truly love your friends, that is what you must do," Rios said.



Thomas Metz

Who Is RUSHbg.org's Thomas Metz?

Born in Los Angeles and then later moving with his family in New Jersey, Thomas Metz, 29, has flashed onto the regional scene as tensions have mounted in the city of Harrisburg over debt.

He's now head of RUSHbg.org, Restore Unity and Sanity to Harrisburg, a community group that has evolved from the Feb. 14 city hall rally expressing opposition to Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson's leadership.

The organization has also sponsored two subsequent "information" events also in front of city hall. Metz participated in the Feb. 14 rally, although wasn't leading that group. RUSHbg.org has drawn in about 60 members and another 20 volunteers, some of whom overlap.

Metz is remembered as the guy who jumped up on Valentine's Day and rallied the crowd of several hundred people in a battle of the chants, much like a battle of the bands. Following his call for some shout and respond, Thompson opponents shouted out rhymes calling for her resignation. Next Thompson supporters in attendance that day matched the outbreak with their own words of support.

"I just felt strongly that it's 2011 and city government needs to change," Metz told Central Voice. He's an emphatic guy, maybe reflective of his having served 2000-2004 in the Infantry as a mortar man. To earn a living, he scales tall office buildings cleaning windows from the outside.

Metz lives in Harrisburg with his wife, Sheena, 26, and their 3-year-old son, Zeppelin, as in the rock group Led Zeppelin going strong since 1969 Jimmy Page launched the mega-group. "Participating in the life of the community is second nature to me," Metz said.

He doesn't understand why anyone wouldn't want to be involved in making life better where they live but understands the pressures that may keep them from being active. "I think people are busy, raising children, sometimes working two jobs to make ends meet," he said. "But people can at least register to vote and vote."

5 Activists Arrested Over DOMA

Activists Sean Watkins, Elizabeth Mills, Morgan Bonney, Jesse Bonney, and Karay Martin have appeared in Ohio Municipal Court to answer to charges of criminal trespassing. They were arrested outside Speaker of the House John Boehner's West Chester district office last March while attempting to deliver over 33,000 CREDO Action and GetEqual petition signatures. The petition asked the Boehner to not use taxpayer resources to defend the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in court

The "Ohio 5" were denied access to Boehner's office, even though he has a public open door policy on his website that urges his constituents to come and share any grievances they may have with their local or federal government.

The Obama Administration recently announced it would no longer defend the law in court.

The activists were represented pro bono by Scott Greenwood, a nationally-known First Amendment rights attorney. Although Mr. Greenwood works with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), he will be representing the activists in a private capacity.

"The fact that the Speaker of the House of the United States of America refused to hear the grievances of citizens and constituents, and chose instead to lock them out of his office in the rain, then having them arrested, is despicable," said Watkins, Western Ohio Lead Organizer for GetEqual. "We found out on March 9 that the Speaker's door is only open to those who agree with his policies and politics. To spend taxpayer dollars to defend DOMA is nothing more than taxpayer-funded bigotry."

GetEQUAL is a national, direct action LGBT civil rights organization. Emphasizing direct action and people power, the mission of GetEQUAL is to empower the LGBT community and its allies to take action to demand full legal and social equality, and to hold accountable those who stand in the way. For more information on GetEQUAL, please visit www.getequal.org. GetEQUAL's Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/getequal, and GetEQUAL's Twitter feed is @getequal.

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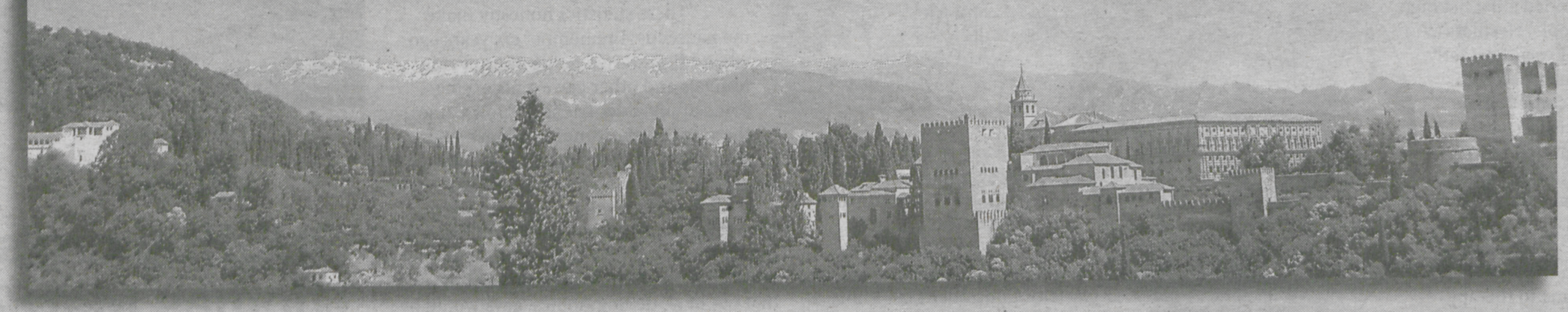

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

As a road-tripping destination for lgbt travelers, there may not be a better place to go in Europe than Spain. It's relatively economical and easy to drive through this increasingly progressive country, that legalized gay marriage in 2005. It is dotted with cities and resorts popular with gay vacationers, and drives between key destinations often reveal stunning views of the Mediterranean, high desert mesas and snowcapped mountaintops.

I rented a car with a friend last summer and embarked on a two-week road-trip covering the eastern two-thirds of the country - I missed the regions near the Portuguese border and north along the Atlantic (including Bilbao, which I'm eager to visit). But with just 14 days, my friend and I knew we had to exercise. We still managed to visit about a dozen towns and cities, some for the afternoon and others for two or three nights. All told, we drove roughly the distance between San Diego and Vancouver. It was a great adventure - my first serious extended driving trip in Europe.

Here's a quick recap of our trip, which commenced in Barcelona in the northeast and ended in Malaga along the Costa del Sol, along with tips about planning a similar trip yourself to Spain or elsewhere in Europe.

We started in Barcelona, and I recommend beginning - and possibly ending - any

European road trip with larger cities in which you plan to spend a few nights. Obviously, big cities have more international direct flights to choose from. They're also usually easy to get to explore without a car. In fact, as they tend to generate plenty of traffic and have expensive parking, they're better visited without a car. We spent our first three days in Barcelona without wheels (this included a day trip to the gay resort town of Sitges, which is extremely easy to reach by train), saving money and hassle.

From Barcelona our route across Spain looked a bit like a backwards "Z" - southwest to Madrid with a stop in Zaragoza (the heart of Aragonese Spain), then southeast to Valencia detouring for the afternoon to Cuenca, a stunning ancient city renowned for its 15th-century "hanging houses," one of which now contains a respected contemporary art museum.

Here you can see a big advantage to driving - it allowed us to make impromptu detours to a variety of places we'd never have considered visiting had we been traveling by plane or even by train or bus. Without having to adhere to timetables or figure out public transportation logistics, we were able to make the most of our time, and even choose some wonderfully scenic routes. It helps that I love both driving and navigating (for this I relied solely on GPS and Google Maps on my Verizon smart phone, which has global roaming - unlimited data plans cost about $2 a day).

From Valencia we turned down the Costa Blanca to Alicante (spending that night in nearby Elche), then followed the sea through the only forgettable part of our trip - the bland, condo-infested resort of Torrevieja. But we soon cut inland and up through the spectacular Sierra Nevada mountains to reach Moorish grandeur of Granada, where we spent the better part of the following day exploring the fabled Alhambra Palace.

We then continued west through Spain's Andalusian countryside to the romantic city of Sevilla, and after two nights there cut southeast over the mountains to the Costa del Sol - stopping for a few hours in the picturesque cliff-top village of Ronda - before continuing to another of Spain's top gay vacation spots, Torremolinos. We spent two final nights in Malaga, a somewhat underrated coastal city of about 570,000 with a lively Old City rife with sidewalk cafes, shops, and a smattering of gay establishments.

Leading destination

Spain has become southern Europe's leading destination for GLBT vacationers, especially travelers from the United Kingdom, Germany, Scandinavia, and other northern European nations. Barcelona and Madrid are tops among the big cities for gay travel, with Seville equally popular, though less for its gay scene and more for its celebration of Andalusian culture and cuisine. Valencia and Malaga possess more modest gay scenes but are also well-worth visiting. Granada has a limited but fun gay scene for a city its size (240,000), and Alicante was probably the biggest surprise for me. This seaside resort city on the Costa Blanca supports an extremely vibrant gay following (especially with British visitors) and contains more GLBT nightlife options than much larger cities like Valencia or Seville.

Among resort communities, tiny Sitges and Torremolinos have gay bars, resorts, and vacation rentals galore, as do two other communities that you must reach by plane or boat: Gran Canaria, which is the second most populous of the Canary Islands, a 2.5-hour flight from Madrid, and the famed party haven of Ibiza, just an hour by plane from Barcelona.

As with Barcelona, a car is arguably more bother than benefit in big cities like Madrid, Seville and Valencia. If you're visiting these cities for more than two or three days, it's worth ditching your rental car at the airport, and renting a new one when you leave. In our case, we stuck the rental car in a garage when we arrived, and picked it up again upon departing.

The 25 to 30 euros per night we spent on parking was still a better deal to us than constantly returning and renting new cars, which would have required taxi rides and wasting time getting to and from rental agencies. Also, it's cheaper to rent weekly than daily, so having the car for a full 11 days worked out more economically than had we rented different cars for two or three days at a time. Finally, having the one car with us the entire trip allowed us to leave some of our belongings in the trunk.

It's worth noting that car theft is a significant issue in Spain, but you're unlikely to be affected by it if you exercise prudence - park in secure garages, store nothing in a part of the car that's visible through the window, and keep no valuables in the car. We left only non-valuable belongings in our car when unattended, and we stored them in a concealed trunk.

Over the 11 days, we paid $380 (including all taxes and a roughly $70 surcharge for returning the car in a different city) for a mid-size car, which I booked on Expedia from Dollar Rent A Car a few weeks in advance. We saved money renting a manual-transmission car, not only because rates for these are far lower in Europe than for automatics, but because they get better gas mileage. It cost about $50 to fill the tank. We did run into some steeply priced toll highways (about $30 from Barcelona to Zaragoza, for example - they all take Visa and Mastercard), but many other major highways in Spain were toll-free.

We also paid extra for international auto insurance, which is a must. Most U.S. policies don't cover international car rentals, and credit card companies typically don't either, but it's important that you first contact these companies before you decide to rent a car to find out what sort of coverage you might already have. I purchased com-

continued on page 23

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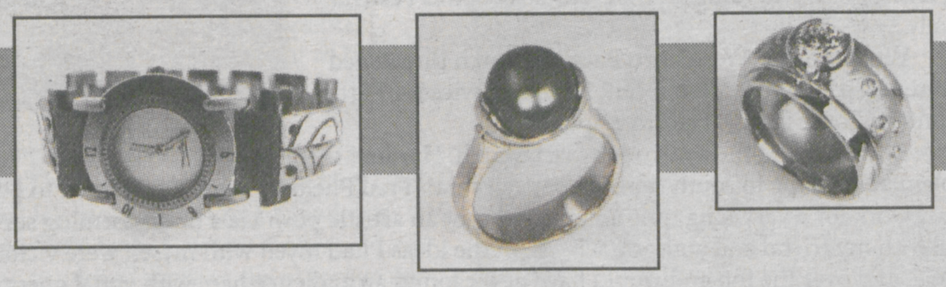

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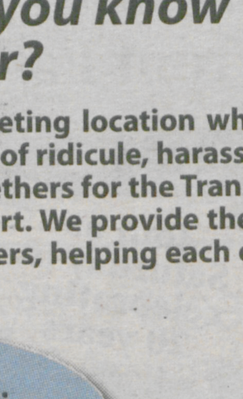

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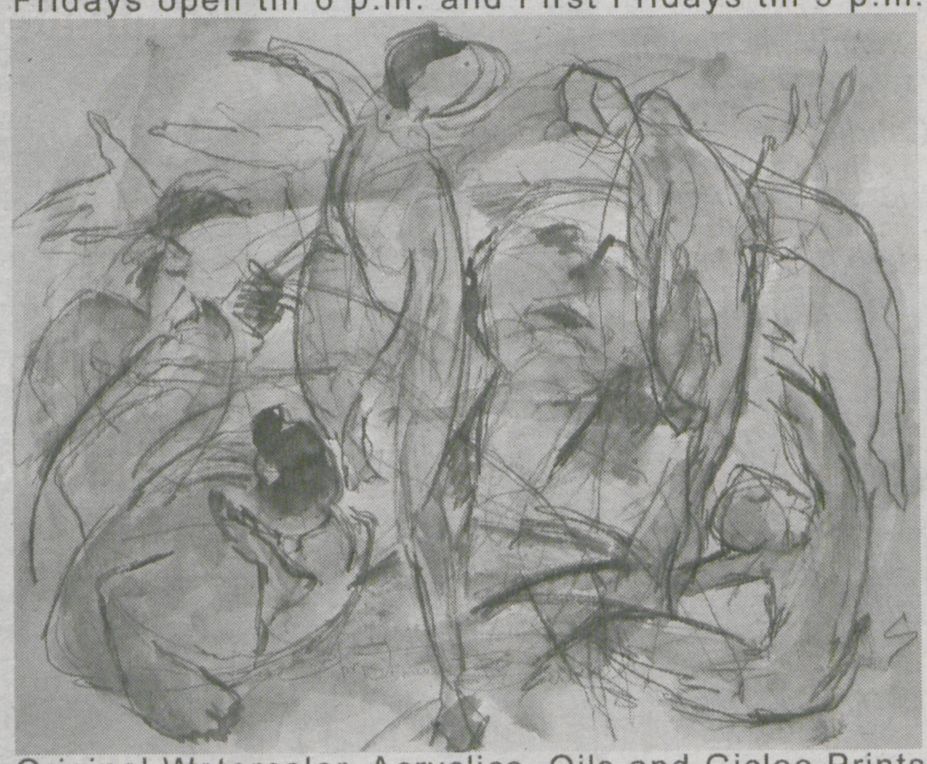

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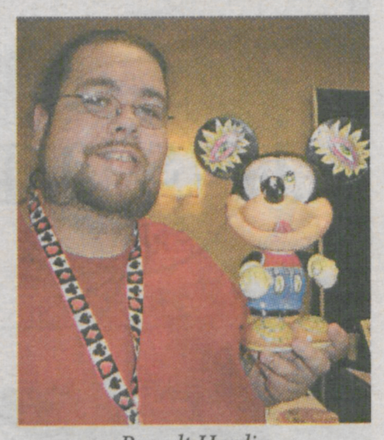
Artist Brandt Hardin on Fred Phelps



Brandt Hardin

Brandt Hardin is a pop surrealist illustrator and designer living and working out of Clarksville, TN. Brandt's colorful creations are inspired by pop culture, surrealist art, comics, and alternative culture. His works have appeared in hundreds of galleries, festivals, and publications worldwide including The Detroit Dirty Show, Hive Gallery of Los Angeles, and Youngblood Gallery of Atlanta. The artist has worked with many musicians, companies, galleries, and groups creating custom artwork and illustrations including Disney of Hong Kong and The Rivers & Spires Festival locally.

When Phelps' Westoboro Baptist Church threatened (but reneged) to protest the recent funeral service for Perry County's Clouse family, Hardin responded.

At the time of the controversy last March, Hardin explained in a blog to south central Pennsylvania: "Fred Phelps is a guy I've wanted to portray in my work for a very long time and recently got an artistic push via a brainstorming session with my friend and author Zach. All of the ideas I had toyed with myself were vicious, sexual, and over the top and would have never found an audience here with you. I guess Fred was getting to me with his hateful rhetoric. What he was doing was working because what I was experiencing in reaction to The Westboro Baptist Church's actions was hate. Living in a community housing thousands of Fort Campbell soldiers and families, we are no strangers here in Clarksville to this hate group's antics. Last year some church members scheduled themselves a stop at Austin Peay State University to protest a speaking engagement with Judy Shepard (who's son, Matthew Sheperd was slain for being homosexual back in 1998.) The students handled the situation in a classy way making mock and ridiculous signs to counter-demonstrate the church.

Fred Phelps

While hanging out with my buddies Zach and Nick, the subject of Phelps and his "God Hates Fags" campaign came up as did my idea to make him a subject of a drawing. Zach suggested I have Phelps holding one of his signs and sweating with terror in his own little personal Hell- Gay Land (if you will.) What is this man so afraid of to go to the lengths he does to spread his message of hate? Rainbows? Butterflies? Unicorns? Or the pink flames of a burning gay apocalypse?

Info: dregstudios@gmail.com

Pride Festival of Central PA
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Rev. Lori Rivera Takes Helm at MCC

By Frank Pizzoli

When she shows you into her office and asks you to get comfortable, that's exactly what you feel – comfortable.

Rev. Lori Rivera, 52, recently began her pastoral duties at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit in Harrisburg after being asked to serve by the congregation.

She and her partner of 26 years, Darlene Hatch, 52, are now settled into the region. Originally from Long Island and more recently from Sarasota County, FL, she was employed there as the associate pastor of an MCC in Venice. Rivera spent 14 years as a middle school teacher seven years before her associate pastor position. She was ordained in 2004.

"My approach is to see myself and the congregation as on a journey with God," Rivera said. Her way is well within the MCC tradition, an lgbt organization now 43 years old with 300 churches worldwide. The founders intentionally framed a faith-based community with services that allowed members to easily find themselves, each other, and God.

"As primarily an lgbt church, although others do worship with us, we acknowledge that members are coming from a broad spectrum of religious traditions or some none at all," Rivera explains. An MCC congregation typically represents members who may have started in Catholic parish or any number of Protestant traditions or may not have had religious mentoring growing up. Historically, organized religions have not been welcoming or have openly condemned lgbt individuals. Some still do although there is a growing number of embracing congregations that reach out to the community letting them know they are valued.

"Even with more welcoming churches, there will always be a need for an MCC setting within the religious landscape," Rivera says. "Some individuals and couples will seek out a gay worshipping environment that matches their comfort zone."

Rivera's plan to get involved with the Interfaith Alliance, a regional effort to bring together churches for common purposes, reflects the overlap. "We can work together on social justice issues and with our respective lgbt congregants."

Rev. Lori Rivera

Social justice issues are a constant focal point in MCC parishes. "We have and will continue to host Sharing Our Caring Dinners," a successful effort started years ago to provide a safe space for HIV-infected people, their family, partners, and friends. After many years at Harrisburg's St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Rivera's MCC parish has hosted the monthly dinners. Many churches volunteer to prepare the meals as well as other organizations.

Rivera has also set her sights on reaching out to 18-35 year-old people as way to be more inclusive and strengthen the church's foundation. "The first line, the front line of MCC's founders, those who built the church are getting older, retiring. We need to invite into our ranks the energy and creativity of young congregants," she said.

Reaching out and finding younger congregants will provide opportunities for elder worshipers to pass on their experiences, to share how they may have found God in themselves and others. Such mentoring preserves something Rivera said during the interview: "If you want to find God, look the person on your left and right."

See her first column on page 25.

Info: www.mccofthespirit.org, 2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg, Pa., 717-236-7387

Out of Town cont'd from page 16

prehensive auto insurance through Expedia for a very reasonable $11 per day.

Including rental rates, insurance, gas, parking, and tolls, we spent a comparable amount to what we would have for a similar road-trip in the United States

Again, road-tripping in foreign countries - especially those known for aggressive drivers, poor roads, or intense traffic - isn't for everybody. Spain is a relatively easy country to drive in. There's an extensive network of high-speed, limited-access highways, gas stations are prolific, and even in smaller town roads are usually in good shape. And you're comfortable behind the wheel driving in new places, it's a great destination for road-tripping.

If driving is less your cup of tea, but you'd still like to tour multiple cities in Spain, consider flying among a few key destinations - such as Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, and Malaga - and using buses or trains for side trips. Another option is to buy a Spain Eurail Pass (http://www.eurail.com), and rely on solely on trains to get around.

A final thought: we visited in July because it best suited out schedule, but summer is typically the most expensive time to fly to Spain from the U.S., and the weather can be stiflingly hot. In interior cities like Madrid and Seville, we routinely encountered daytime highs above 100 degrees, but with low humidity. Along the coast, daytime highs hovered around the 80s, but higher humidity made it feel hotter.

Travel around Spain in fall or spring, and you'll likely enjoy milder weather, fewer crowds and better rates on flights, hotels and car rentals. Winter is a decent value in cities, but it's high season in coastal resort areas.

For more on visiting Spain, check out the official national tourism website (http://www.spain.info) along with the very helpful site on gay travel in Spain, http://www.gayiberia.com.

Andrew Collins covers gay travel for the New York Times-owned website About.com and is the author of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutofTown@qsyndicate.com.

Teen Survival Guide Available

As a part of journalist Dan Savage's project, a host of celebrities and politicians have been delivering the message to GLBTQ teens that "it gets better." Author Kelly Huegel is here to tell you that better starts now. In her book GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Teens, Revised and Updated 2nd Edition (Free Spirit Publishing, $15.99), Huegel offers an unwavering message of reassurance and hope for teens.

GLBTQ covers the full spectrum of topics related to being a queer teen—from fitting in to coming out and everything in between. When it was first published in 2003, The Advocate called GLBTQ "an indispensable map through the wilderness, one that should be issued to every queer kid immediately." Now the book has been fully revised and updated to reflect advances in GLBTQ rights, including the current status of legislative initiatives concerning safe schools, gay marriage, workplace equality, transgender expression, the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and contains a new foreword by Phoenix Schneider, program director for The Trevor Project.

GLBTQ comes at an important time for teens. While society has come a long way in accepting people who are GLBTQ, the rise of cyberbullying has made hatred and homophobia more visible. Huegel offers advice on how to boldly respond to homophobia and bullying. She doesn't sugarcoat tough issues like sex and sexuality and reconciling queerness with religion and culture. She provides support, encouragement, and realistic strategies to cope with life's challenges.

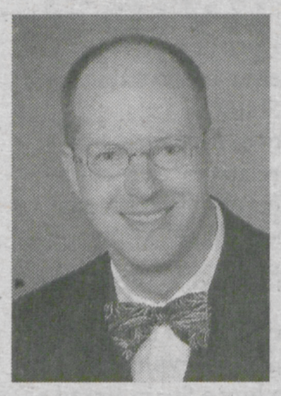
"Teens are a lot tougher than we give them credit for," says Huegel. "In creating this second edition, I wanted to really acknowledge how these young people—and their straight allies—are making significant contributions to the queer civil rights movement and positively changing the climate for all GLBTQ people just by being themselves and not making apologies for who they are."

Created with feedback and suggestions from PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), and GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), this frank, sensitive book is appropriate for young people who are beginning to question their sexual or gender identity, those who are ready to work for GLBTQ rights, and those who may need advice, guidance, or reassurance that they are not alone.

Louie Marven Receives Wheeler Award

The LGBT Community Center is pleased to announce that Director of Education & Youth Services Louie Marven was presented on April 2 with the Wheeler Freedom Award presented by Lebanon Valley College's LGBT student group Freedom Rings. The award, named in honor of Lebanon native James Wheeler, is given annually to a community member that Freedom Rings identifies as having contributed to lgbt advocacy and education on campus and in the larger community.

legal column



LGBT Elder Care Issues - The Conversation Starts

Leo L. Dunn, Attorney at Law

Pennsylvania experienced its first conference on lgbt elder care issues last October in Philadelphia at the William Way Center. Yours truly attended and was impressed. The attendees were not your typical gay advocates. Instead they were a cross section of the Delaware Valley's private and public aging service providers mixed with LGBT service providers with a substantial representation of gay seniors. The following is an overview of the issues reconstructed from my notes and the Delaware Valley LGBT Elder Initiative Summit Report.

The idea of such a summit focusing on the gay population is not unique. Boston has an LGBT Aging Project that started in the same way ten years ago. Its director, Lisa Krinsky, was the keynote speaker. Today Boston's Project serves a regional clientele. The Project focused on educating current elder care providers and effecting change rather than creating a parallel system. This allows gay seniors to access existing service networks while reducing any feelings of alienation and assuring gay elders are not further segregated.

The primary focus of the various speakers and gay elders came down to two main issues:

1) Reducing discrimination and stigmatization by health care providers, and 2) finding health care providers who are knowledgeable of the health care issues of the gay community. The problems are especially acute for transgender and inter-sex persons according to the summit's responders' panel.

A major fear of most gay elders is that their long term relationships will not be recognized and respected by elder care providers and government caseworkers. Long term partners fear separation without the benefit of legally sanctioned same-sex marriages or civil unions. While this possibility of separation may be reduced through legal planning and proper documentation, legal documents do not magically disburse prejudice. Elders need to plan for their silver years.

The community needs to make the aging services providers aware of their existence, how they want to be treated, and refuse to accept sub par services. Attorneys and elder care planners working with gay clients need to verify that their clients' providers are caring for their clients in a nondiscriminatory and supportive manner.

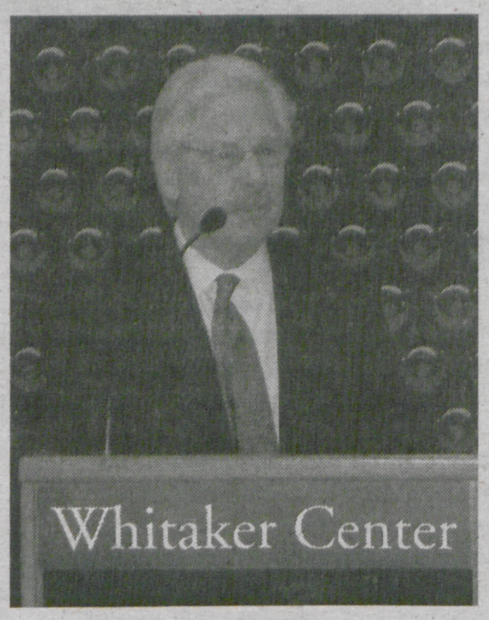
Individuals need to educate themselves on the available resources for aging support - preferably before they need them. Individuals also need to build strong social networks to combat potential isolation as they age.

The community must realize that the aging services sector is not culturally competent regarding gay issues and our life experiences. Many supportive providers are unaware of the vast difference in financial stability provided by federal benefits between same-sex couples and married opposite sex couples. Social security, Medicaid, pensions, military and veterans benefits all discriminate in favor of marriages. It is up to us to educate and create a new model for elder care that embraces diversity and allows us to grow older with grace and dignity by our partners' side without fear of discriminatory treatment.

In future columns, I intend to discuss specific elder care issues in more depth with examples of how advising a same-sex couple on elder planning differs from advising an opposite sex couple.

Leo Dunn is an attorney who practices estate planning in Harrisburg. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com or 717-503-1207.

Whitaker Center Launches Expedition



President and CEO of Whitaker Center, Dr. Michael Hanes, announcing "Expedition Chesapeake, a multi-media educational and entertainment in a large film format. "We are in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This initiative cuts to the core of our mission which is to educate citizens, especially students, about the world around us," Hanes said. The four-part project includes the large format film, a made-for-television documentary series, a hands-on, traveling 4D science exhibit, and online resources.

New Center Focuses on Spirituality

A new center in central Pennsylvania will focus on spirituality rather than religion.

Founder and director the Rev. Dr. Terry Drew Karanen said the motto of the New Thought Center of Central Pennsylvania is "We make sense of life!" (sm). The center's vision is to create a nurturing, safe space for growth and healing through personal empowerment. The mission is to provide guidance, education and support through counseling and related services. Karanen is a counselor, clinical social worker and ordained minister who integrates spirit, mind and body in solving life's challenges.

NEW THOUGHT CENTER
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The center is located in Camp Hill above the Cornerstone Coffeehouse, 2133 Market St. and offers:

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Karenan holds a Doctor of Divinity degree from the American Institute of Holistic Theology and a Master of Social Work degree from Temple University. He is trained in the teachings of Religious Science, a philosophy and way of life called "New Thought" that is distinctly American in origin. The center has been created to provide a space for people of all faiths, religions and beliefs to learn more about the universal principles of the New Thought Movement.

Karenan has also been in practice as a massage therapist and reflexologist for more than 25 years, and the author of seven books. His ministry and counseling honors all religions and spiritual paths, as well as those whose belief system sides with science over theology.

"The center is unique in our area in its teaching, and provides a safe, diverse and welcoming atmosphere for people of all backgrounds, cultures, sexual orientations and ages," Karenan said in a news release.

A four-part class series, "Making Sense of Life", began April 5. All other services may be arranged by appointment. Info: 717.645.8885, email terry@newthoughtpa.org

York events

Lunch Time Chill
May 3 - August 25
Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Cherry Lane Park (rear of Central Market House)
Downtown York City
Live entertainment featured every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer months in the courtyard at Cherry Lane during lunch time. Enjoy classical to jazz and swing to pop, regional and local performers entertain in this unique outdoor setting. No street closings.

36th Annual Olde York Street Fair
May 8, 12:30 - 6 p.m.
Downtown York City
The Olde York Street Fair has been a Mother's Day tradition for more than 35 years featuring 150 artisans and food vendors as well as live entertainment and strolling performers that will fill the air with music. The Kid's Fun Block (sponsored by Penn Waste) is always a hit with rides and games for the kids to enjoy. Streets closed: Market Street from Newberry to Pine, and George Street from King to Philly.

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons

Failure to Communicate

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me."

This venerable folk phrase dates back to the 19th century. And as with so many other truisms we can reel off, this one was always suspect. It is a noble goal, but hard to achieve. Words can and do hurt.

Words are powerful, and rightly so. As the novelist Iris Murdoch has said, "Words… are the most refined and delicate and detailed symbolisms whereby we express ourselves into existence."

In my last column I said I would talk more about language, and my original plan was to discuss the emerging trend among young LGBTQ people to avoid labels or names of any sort except to co-opt negative stereotypes. (In "Rubyfruit Jungle," Rita Mae Brown has her protagonist say, "Yep—We're just a couple of All-American Queers.")

However, having sat through a recent religious gathering in which many words were said about the place of lgbt folk in the Christian church - many of them insensitive and hurtful - I want to discuss the power of words in that context.

The question was about what language should be used in stating the criteria for ordination of elders and pastors in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Years ago, language was put in the Book of Order stating that among the criteria a person must meet is chastity in any relationship other than marriage. Why focus on this one quality out of the many required? To keep lgbt Christians from being eligible for ordination, that's why.

We who believe that the Presbyterian Church U.S.A should be inclusive, period, and that any gay or lesbian member who feels called to ministry should be eligible regardless of his or her sexual orientation, have been trying to get that language out of the Book of Order ever since. New language that is inclusive of lgbt folk may yet be passed by a majority of presbyteries across the country, and so far the vote is going in that direction.

But not here in central Pennsylvania, where for a second time in the past two years the majority in the Carlisle Presbytery, which includes 52 mid-state congregations, voted to retain the exclusionary language.

Words were used skillfully and effectively by both sides in the debate that evening, but the rhetoric of those who wish to exclude was harsh indeed. Of course, if you truly believe that "homosexual conduct" is a sin before God Almighty, you do have some scripture to support your harsh words.

After all, it is true that in Leviticus such conduct is called an "abomination," the penalty for which is death. And to hear St. Paul talk about sex in his New Testament letters is to cringe a bit. (Well, this writer certainly cringes at all that talk of fornication and of people not being able to control themselves.)

Of course elsewhere in his letters Paul promotes inclusion, saying that everyone is welcome to join the followers of Christ. Our differences don't matter, he says.

So in the debate over who should be ordained we heard way too much talk of sin. A couple of speakers decried the alleged sexual immorality sweeping through society today, homosexuality being a major contributor. Those opposing ordination of gays and lesbians used words to hammer the opposition into defeat.

Listening to the debate and waiting to cast my affirmative vote, I grew angry as I thought about my lgbt friends and colleagues sitting there and having to hear themselves talked about as though they were alien beings - probably from some other planet rampant with homosexual conduct.

And I was embarrassed by it all. No doubt it was much the same back in the days of slavery and then in the 1960s when well-meaning churchgoers talked about their black sisters and brothers as the other, as alien beings who just didn't quite measure up. How could churches integrate when whites and blacks were so different from one another?

And how many discussions of the question on the ordination of women back in the 1950s were similar in the hard exclusionary language used? From the history I've read, it was right up there with the strident rhetoric used to deny women the vote in the early 20th century.

So where does this leave us? What we have here is a failure to communicate, as Cool Hand Luke found out. How can well-meaning folks learn to stop using words that can and do hurt our brothers and sisters?

I don't know the answer to my question, except to say that we human beings must learn to develop empathy. Walt Whitman said it best. "Whoever walks a furlong without sympathy walks to his own funeral dressed in his shroud."

Trum Simmons is senior professor of English at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) and adviser of The Fourth Estate, the Harrisburg campus student newspaper. He also advises HACC Allies, the LGBTQA student organization.

MCC column

New Beginnings with New Pastor

By Rev. Lori Rivera

I am new to the central Pennsylvania area. My partner of 26 years, Darlene, and I moved to Harrisburg in mid-February from central west Florida. We lived not far from the gulf coast beaches and the weather is steady for at least 10 months of the year – hot and muggy. From December to mid-February you might occasionally have to put on a sweater and on a rare occasion put on the heater instead of the air conditioning. Folks here at MCC of the Spirit in Harrisburg keep telling me that spring is just around the corner. But I should be prepared since one never knows about the weather toward the end of March in the region.

MCC
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SPIRIT

Spring is a time of year that is full of signs of new beginnings; flowers budding, birds chirping, grass turning green and the celebration of Easter. New beginnings can be wonderful opportunities in our lives. These opportunities can lead to growth and/or opportunities to change what we don't like about ourselves or add something to our lives that's needed, like exercise, new hobbies or being true to ourselves.

As lgbt people our lives are filled with new beginnings. Every time we come out to someone, whether they are a new acquaintance or an old friend or family member, it is a new beginning. We ask ourselves do I really want to do this? We wonder how they will react. We are even fearful. And unfortunately their reaction will more than likely determine the future of that relationship. When their reaction is negative, there's a good chance that the relationship will end. When the reaction is positive we are happy but there is still a change to the relationship. This change causes a new beginning to the relationship since there is a dynamic that wasn't present before.

We should rejoice every time we have opportunities through new beginnings. We should rejoice when we come out to others and be proud of who we are. We should celebrate every time a transgendered person experiences a new beginning as they boldly walk out of their home letting the world see that the outside person represents that which they know is their inner person.

As we approach our Pride celebrations let's celebrate new beginnings in our lives. Let one of our new beginnings be to let our communities, both the lgbt and our communities of residence, know of our Pride. Pride in the people we are, pride in the person we are now and will be in the future and pride in our accomplishments. As a person of faith I say let's show our pride as a lgbt person of faith. This might be a new beginning for some - to reconcile the person one is with one's faith. Take a step in your new beginnings to find a house of worship or faith community and join with others to celebrate new beginnings. For each day is a new beginning with God.

Info: www.mccofthespirit.org, 2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg, Pa., 717-236-7387

'Go-Go's' Kick off National Tour at Hershey Theatre

The Go-Go's kick off their national tour at Hershey Theatre May 29, 7:30 p.m.

Thirty years after the release of Beauty and the Beat, their double-platinum debut album that featured such smash hits as "Our Lips Are Sealed" and "We Got the Beat", the Go-Go's and their fans are preparing for a slew of 30th-anniversary activities for the summer of 2011 and beyond.

Kicking off the festivities will be Ladies Gone Wild, a national U.S. tour with the legendary Go-Go's – Belinda Carlisle, Charlotte Caffey, Gina Schock, Jane Wiedlin and Kathy Valentine.

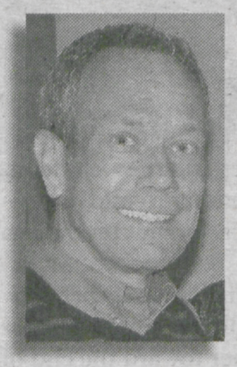
In 1981, the Go-Go's delivered Beauty and the Beat hot on the heels of their debut U.S. single, "Our Lips Are Sealed." The album hit #1, the first by an all-female band that wrote and performed their own songs to make it to the top of the Billboard charts.

Today, the Go-Go's live show continues to deliver every bit of the raw energy of their now-legendary punk beginnings, tempered with the wisdom of three decades of pop perfection. Don't miss the celebration and a chance to go wild with the ladies of the Go-Go's.

Tickets: $120, includes meet & greet; $65, $60 and $45 (processing fees apply), 717-534-3405, www.HersheyTheatre.com. Info: www.GoGos.com

Capital Region Stonewall Democrats

Vote Responsibly in the May 17 Primary



By Steve Dorko, Chair

In preparation for the May 17 Municipal Primary Election, this spring the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats contacted 58 Democratic candidates from a five county area and requested that they complete a questionnaire designed to gauge their support of issues important to LGBT voters.

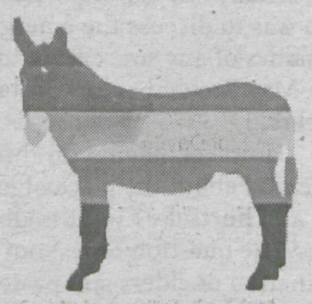
The questionnaire was intended to educate candidates that LGBT citizens in most of Central PA do not have legal protection against discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and to ask if they would support such legislation in their jurisdiction if elected. Candidates were also asked their position on funding Human Rights Commissions, as well as their stand on anti-bullying legislation, domestic partnership benefits, civil unions, and full marriage equality.

Democratic County Commissioner and County Row Office candidates from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, and York counties were selected to receive the questionnaires. County Row offices include District Attorney, Register of Wills, Sheriff, Clerk of Courts, Recorder of Deeds, and Controller. Additionally, City Council candidates from Harrisburg, Lancaster, and York received questionnaires as well as municipal candidates from Susquehanna Township and Penbrook Borough.

The active membership of the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats voted to endorse or not endorse candidates based on recommendations from the Executive Board which reviewed the information submitted via the questionnaires. The list of candidates we endorsed for the May 17 Municipal Primary Election can be found at www.capitalstonewall.org. We know that the LGBT community is not a monolithic voting block and that family, economic opportunity, education, health care, and national security are all critical issues to us as voters. We also believe that every lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender person has the right to live free of discrimination and harassment and that voters need to know which candidates will stand up for our rights when elected.

And just one more reminder that May 17 is the Municipal Primary Election. The polls are open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. making it easy to vote that day. And if you're one of those voters who only votes in the even years, thinking that it's an off year and not an important election, think again. The officials elected to county and local offices have far more reach into your daily life than does the President of the United States.

At the county level voters will nominate two candidates for County Commissioner and one candidate for each of the County Row offices. Local offices open for nomination of candidates include, and are not limited to, Magisterial District Justice, City Council, Township Commissioner, Township Supervisors, Borough Council, and School Directors. Statewide in 2011, there is one vacancy to be filled on the Pennsylvania Superior Court and one vacancy to be filled on the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, as well as six sitting judges facing retention elections.



So do your homework and become an educated voter before heading to the polls. If 2010 taught us nothing else, it showed elections have consequences. It's way too easy to become discouraged and frustrated with the lack of changes in our region toward the advancement of lgbt equality. One solution is to channel your frustration into action by voting responsibly. And, by the way, mark November 8, 2011 on your calendar right now - it's the date of the Municipal Election.

Contact: www.capitalstonewall.org.

1st Annual Student Diversity Summit Successful

By Ricardo Almodovar

March 25 students from Penn State University, Messiah College, and Harrisburg Area Community College for the first annual Student Diversity Summit. The event was organized by a joint committee of students and faculty from participating schools and held in the Capital Union, Penn State Harrisburg.

Students dedicated this day to discuss many obstacles in dealing with everyday living conditions in not only a college atmosphere but also within surrounding communities. Participants said diversity is a matter of great concern.

While diversity was the summit's main topic, the issue was explored through the lens of many subtopics: religious and spiritual, global interaction, socio-economic, and cross-cultural diversity.

Keynote speaker Dr. W. Terrell Jones, vice provost for educational equity, PSU. He led the day with his motivational words that left students informed and laughing at the same time. Jones, a male African American married to a Caucasian woman, drew on the humorous experiences of his own family's interactions on each side of the marriage.

Speaker Rabbi Carl Choper, The Religion and Society Center, Harrisburg said, "The flame of faith can both enlighten and burn, in the worst cases even at the stake."

Although people have their differences, Choper said, "Society is knit like a tapestry. Not blended, but each color overlapping each other."

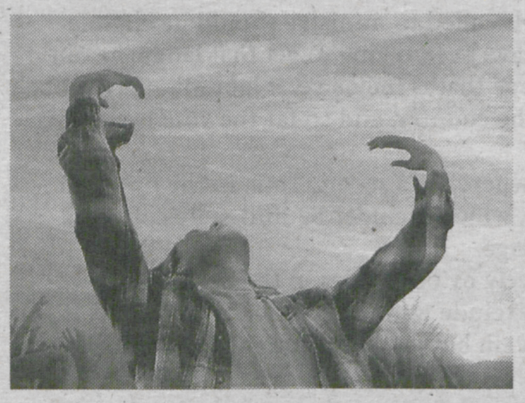
Aakifah Daneen, a PSU student who converted to Islam as an adult, told participants about the discrimination faced by members of the Muslim community.

She explained that Muslims are vastly misrepresented by the media as extremists. Extremists only make up about one percent of the Muslim population, and yet are the most often portrayed sector of the Islamic faith by mass media.

A session on global interaction was lead by Dr. Bernardo Michael, Chimene Jackson and Dr. Martha Strickland. The panel was unanimous in its conclusion that the largest hurdle for American students wanting to study abroad was the lack of funding for such programs.

The Metamorphosis Performing Company performed several interactive skits with real-life scenarios relating to societal adversity. Following their performances the moderator facilitated a discussion including the actors and the audience alike.

John Campbell, representing HACC student government, and Louie Marvin, LGBT Community Center of South Central Pennsylvania, and Dr. Dorothy King also spoke on the simple question, "Who here believes that racism has ended?"



"Two Spirits" on WITF June 19

Fred Martinez was a Navajo boy who was also a girl.

In an earlier era, he would have been revered. Instead he was murdered. WITF airs the program June 19 as part of the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens. Check witf.org for exact time.

Rock music icon and political activist Patti Smith contributes music to the production, as do a number of Native artists who record with Canyon Records.

The film interweaves the tragic story of a mother's loss of her son with a revealing look at the largely unknown history of a time when the world wasn't simply divided into male and female and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders.

Two Spirits explores current national concerns including the bullying and violence commonly faced by lgbt people, and the epidemic of lgbt teen suicide, and reveals the range of gender expression that has long been seen as a healthy part of many of the indigenous cultures of North America, and of Navajo culture in particular.

Two Spirits director Lydia Nibley told Central Voice

The story

Fred Martinez told his mother he felt as if he was both a boy and a girl, and she explained that this is a special gift, according to traditional Navajo culture. But the place where two discriminations meet is a dangerous place to live, and Fred became one of the youngest hate-crime victims in modern history when he was brutally murdered at sixteen. Between tradition and controversy, and freedom and fear, lies the truth—the bravest choice you can make is to be yourself.

The Navajo believe that to maintain harmony, there must be a balanced interrelationship between the feminine and the masculine within the individual, in families, in the culture, and in the natural world. For the first time on film, Two Spirits tells stories from the Navajo tradition of four genders. The first gender is the feminine woman. The second is the masculine man. The third is the male-bodied person who has a feminine essence—nadleehi. The fourth is the female-bodied person who has a masculine essence—dilbaa.

In Navajo, nadleehi means "one who is transformed," and as the film traces the ramifications of Fred's murder, it also shows the transformation being undertaken by Native activists who are working to restore the rich heritage of two-spirit people and to claim their place within their tribal communities.

continued on page 32

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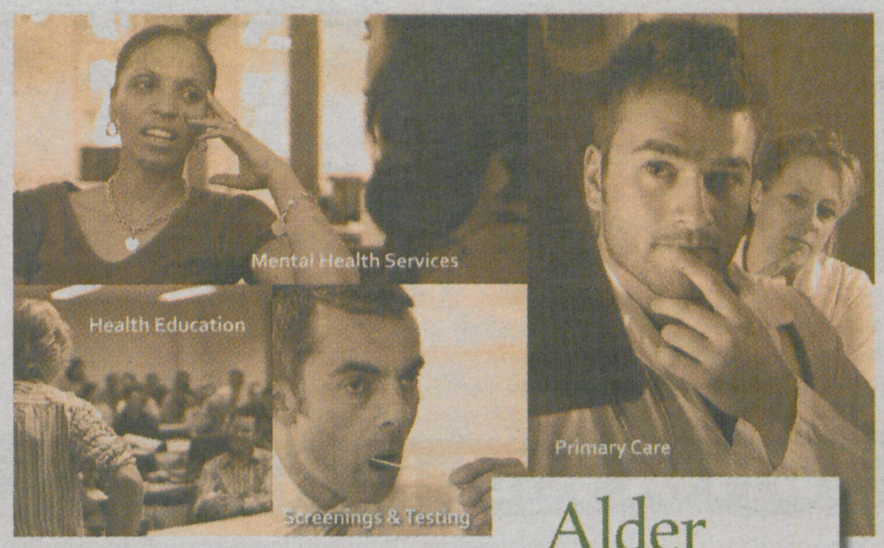

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June 27 is National HIV Testing Day

By Nicole Hamilton

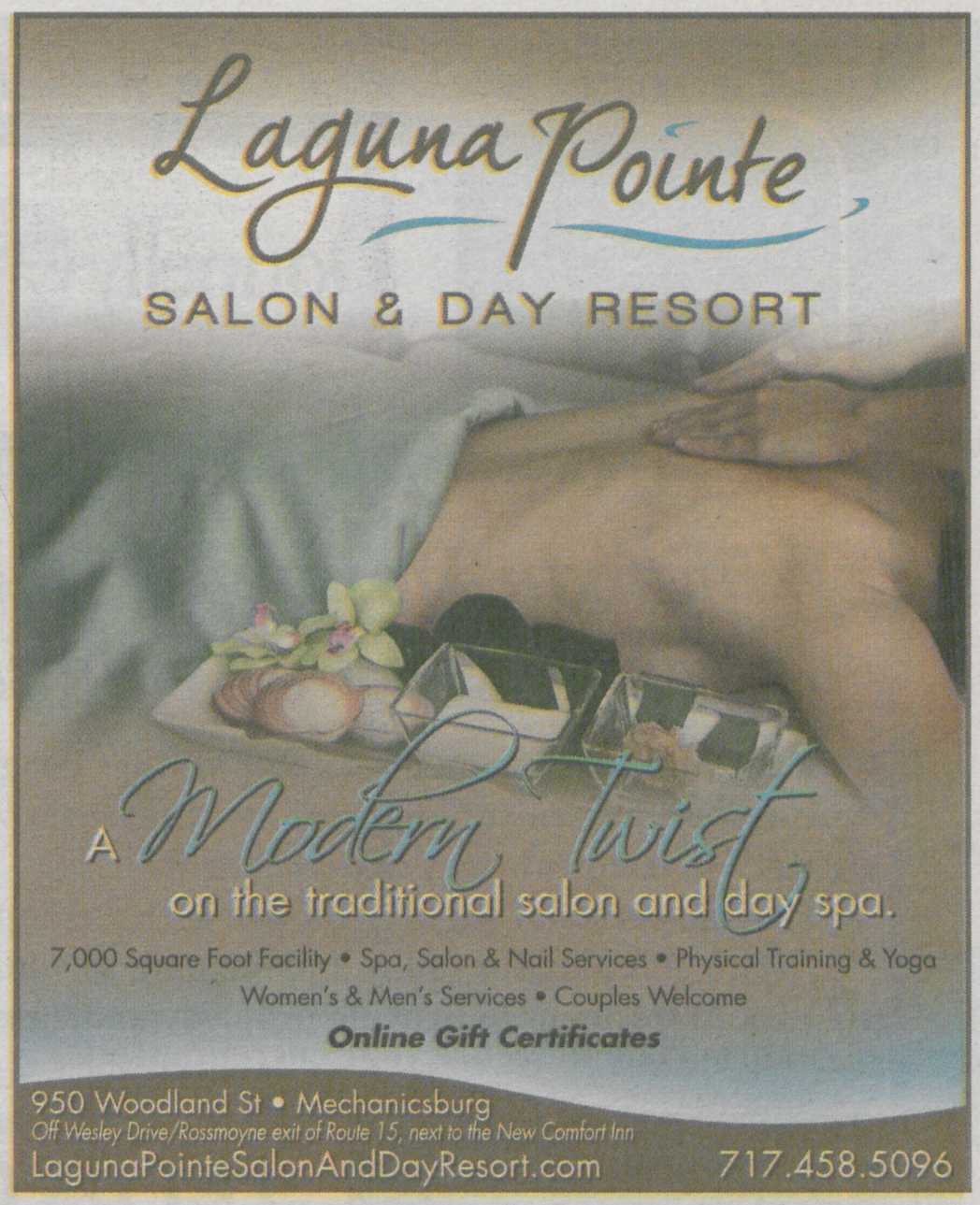
In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, June 27, 2011, Hamilton Health Center's HOPE Program will host an event at Rowland School to bring awareness to the community. It will be an evening full of fun, entertainment and education.

Did you know that the CDC estimates that every nine and a half minutes on average someone in the United States is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS? There are more than one million people in the United States living with HIV and of those one out of every five does not know they are infected. These numbers are alarming. The fight against AIDS is a longstanding battle and awareness and education are vital to decreasing the number of people being infected.

Hamilton Health Center's HOPE Program encourages you to "get tested and know your status". The HOPE Program offers free, confidential and even anonymous HIV testing. Many people do not believe they are at risk for HIV and this is a common mistake often made. Being in a relationship does not shield you from being infected, if you have ever had unprotected sex, you are at risk. If you have ever shared needles with someone, you are at risk.

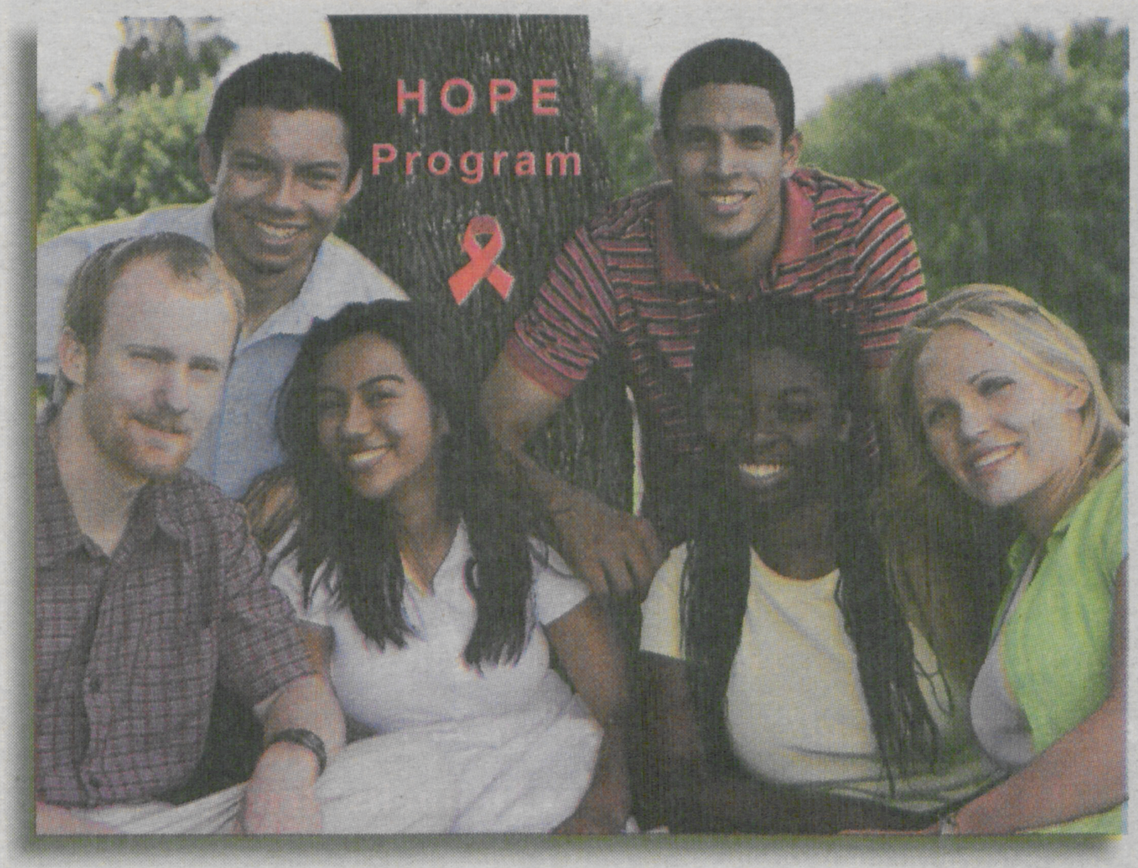
Studies show the outcomes for people who receive early treatment for HIV are much better than those diagnosed in late stage HIV/AIDS, while there is still hope no matter when you are diagnosed, the earlier the better. No one person is immune from this disease. It is important that everyone no matter what your race, financial status, religious preference, age or sexual preference get tested.

For more information, please contact the HOPE Program at 717-230-3949.



Hamilton Health Center Inc.

Hamilton's HOPE Program



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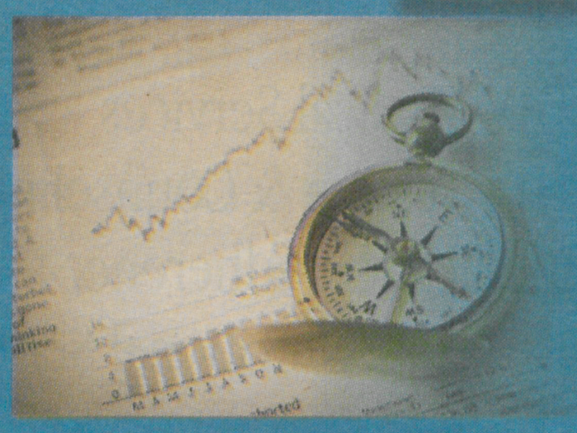

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Totem Pole Offers More Shows in 2011

Totem Pole Playhouse is expanding its summer programming in 2011.

Along with its customary lineup of six musicals and comedies, the playhouse will offer audiences more live music, additional family friendly shows, plus a new installment of the popular Late Nite Catechism series.

Like the last two summers, Totem Pole will again produce a season of plays never before seen on the Playhouse stage. June also marks the return of the beloved murder mystery to the Caledonia summer theatre.

Through a grant from The Franklin County Foundation, the playhouse has formed a new company: The Totem Pole Players: Theatre for Young Audiences. Guest professional directors, writers and designers will work alongside the intern acting company to produce four Saturday morning performances of Pirates and Zombies. This new musical play is free and open to all ages.

Artistic Director, Ray Ficca, sees this new company as vital to Totem Pole's future. "It is imperative that theatres take the lead to build new and younger audiences. This grant gives us that opportunity."

THE 2011 SEASON

Hank Williams: Lost Highway
by Randal Myler and Mark Harelik
May 28-June 12

Popular Shenandoah Valley musician, Robbie Limon, will reprise his role as the troubled country music legend, Hank Williams. Lost Highway follows Williams' rise and fall, from his humble roots singing gospel music on the Louisiana Hayride, to the great stage of the Grand Ole Opry.

Moonlight and Magnolias
By Ron Hutchinson
June 14-June 26

Gone with the Wind was recently named the top movie of all time in the ABC special Best in Film: The Greatest Movies of Our Time, but what most fans and movie lovers don't know is that this classic almost never made it to the silver screen. Three weeks into shooting the epic, producer David O. Selznick realized that the screenplay just wasn't working. Production was shut down and Selznick, writer Ben Hecht, and director Victor Flemming locked themselves in an office and rewrote the whole script in just five days. This new comedy recounts those pressure-filled, overly caffeinated five days.

It Could Be Any One of Us
by Alan Ayckbourn
June 28-July 10

The plays of Alan Ayckbourn, known for their intelligent writing, creative wordplay and hilarious characters, have been a staple in summer theatres for over three decades.

It Could Be Any One of Us marks the playwright's first venture into a mystery play.

Wil Love and Catherine Blaine
In Suite Surrender
by Michael McKeever
July 12-July 24

Suite Surrender premiered in January 2008 at the Caldwell Theatre in Boca Raton, FL to sellout crowds and critical acclaim. Its 1942, and the luxurious Palm Beach Royale Hotel is under siege as two of Hollywood's biggest divas vie for the same suite. Mistaken identities, overblown egos, double entendres, and one pampered little lap dog round out this fall-down-laughing riot of a farce.

Info: 888-805-7056; www.TotemPolePlayhouse.org

Elton John: *Rocket Man Blasts Off*

Elton John and partner David Furnish may have fame, fortune and a loving family, but the 'Rocket Man' singer won't be satisfied until gay couples are granted the same rights as their heterosexual counterparts.

Recently at billionaire Ron Burkle's Los Angeles fundraiser to overturn Proposition 8, the new father had some choice words for those who oppose gay marriage, RadarOnline.com reports.

"I think I have it all," said the singer, who welcomed son Zachary via surrogate last month. "I have a wonderful career, a wonderful life. I have my health, I have a partner of 17 years, and now I have a son. I don't have everything because I don't have the respect of people like the church or like politicians who tell me that I'm not worthy, that I'm lesser because I'm gay, well f**k you!"

John performed a 90-minute set of both new material and his classic hits for the 750-person crowd, which included 'Glee' star Jane Lynch and her partner, Dr. Lara Embry.

During the event, which raised more than $3 million for the restoration of marriage equality, John continued to voice his frustration over the disparity between his rights and those of other parents.

"Here I am sitting with a wedding ring and I'm with my partner and we have a son, but we couldn't get married," he said.

Despite his joy over the birth of Zachary, John's road to fatherhood hasn't been without obstacles. Just last year, John and Furnish were turned down after trying to adopt an HIV-positive boy from the Ukraine, where civil marriages are not legally recognized.

John does, however, have hope for the future. "We have a right to be recognized as a human being. We have to fight the good fight," he said. "And we will win."

REVIEWS

BOOKS
DVDs
CDs

WYNTER GORDON

"Dirty Talk," the new single from recording artist Wynter Gordon, hit #1 on Billboard's "Dance Club Play Songs" chart. The single also includes an array of remixes by such modern masters as Laidback Luke, Kim Fai, Chew Fu, and Hagenaar & Albrecht.

SARA BAREILLIES

Sara Bareilles releases "King Of Anything," the highly anticipated first single off her sophomore album Kaleidoscope Heart. Produced by the renowned Neal Avron. The immensely addictive and charismatic pop driven track featuring Sara's extraordinary vocal prowess is now available.

TING TINGS

Release of the brand new single "Hands" from The Ting Tings. A work of pure electro-disco heaven, "Hands" is a global shout out to everyone who's working too hard. Written, performed and produced by Jules and Katie in their home made studio in Berlin, it has been mixed by label mate Calvin Harris.

LA ROUX

Synth-pop sensation La Roux's second single, "In For The Kill" has hit airwaves. The track was recently featured on Entourage (8/7) and created such a frenzy with the show's fans that the single spiked 600%+ that week.

SELENA GOMEZ

What do you do after striking gold with your first solo album? If you're Selena Gomez, you dance and get the world on its feet with "A Year Without Rain." A follow-up to "Kiss & Tell," Selena's gold-certified Hollywood Records debut CD, "A Year Without Rain" shows Selena and her band, The Scene, as pulsating and multi-colored.

TIFFANY DUNN

With the release of her debut single, "Shut the Front Door (Got My Girls)," which she co-wrote with noted hitmaker Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins, followed by a debut album in early 2011, Dunn is about to get her first shot at her life-long dream of being a professional performer. A singer, songwriter, dancer, and choreographer, Dunn represents a rare breed of entertainer: one who does it all.

OH LAND

"What does it sound like? What does it smell like? What does it look like? How does it feel? I always ask myself these questions when I'm writing," says singer and producer Nanna Øland Fabricius. "I think that Oh Land has a unique landscape all on its own. I strive to make the possibilities endless and to have all the senses collide in to a language on their own." Her multi-sensory approach to songwriting has been present from the beginning.

KERI HILSON

Grammy-nominated, Interscope/Zone 4/Mosley Music Group recording artist Keri Hilson has burst out the gate with her first single "Breaking Point" from her heavily anticipated sophomore album "No Boys Allowed". FADER Magazine comments "its perfect as a finger-wagging, gospel-inferring device, the melancholy beat of a chick scorned for the last time…this one continues the awesome heartbroken lady thread. No Boys Allowed - sometimes you just gotta make your own clubhouse".

BEACH GIRL5

Beach Girl5 is making waves worldwide with release of club banging single, Scratch. The girls have been taking the world by storm beginning with their 15-city American tour. They have amassed credits like opening for Justin Beiber and Selena Gomez, as well as having their debut album produced by Armato/James, who worked with Miley Cyrus and Mariah Carey.

BLACK EYED PEAS

Six-time Grammy award-winning, multi-platinum recording artists The Black Eyed Peas released a brand-new album "The Beginning" on Interscope Records. Their sixth album, it is the follow-up to the group's blockbuster cd "The E.N.D."

MARSHA AMBROSIUS

Already proven as a talented, sought after songwriter and revered platinum-selling artist, Marsha Ambrosius is meeting the next challenge in her already impressive musical career by reinventing herself as a solo artist with her J Records debut disc "Late Nights & Early Mornings".

JESSI J

Jessie J is not just a great pop artist…or a great R&B artist, or even a great hip-hop artist. The British-born, Essex-bred vocalist is malleable enough to encompass several genres, while displaying vocals reminiscent of Motown-era greats. Although she may not be able to play the piano, Jessie is armed with the chops to blow people away, and the songwriting skills to pen a worldwide hit.

Simply Cher -

Legend talks film comeback, being a gay icon and son Chaz

By Chris Azzopardi

They don't make 'em like Cher anymore.

The superdiva, and queen of all gay icons, has been able to successfully pull off singing-and-acting throughout her nearly 50-year career – and she does both in "Burlesque", her long-awaited return to the big screen out Nov. 24. Cher's role as Tess, an L.A. club owner who gives a small-town girl (Christina Aguilera in her acting debut) a shot at fulfilling her dream as a singer, is the Oscar winner's first major part since "Tea with Mussolini" over a decade ago.

"Tess is a character who, in the face of great adversity, manages to pull herself up by her bootstraps and rise like a phoenix – and that "is" Cher," says writer-director Steven Antin, who nabbed the actress for his big-budget film debut.

Breaking from her Las Vegas show at Caesars Palace, which closes in February after three years, Cher coolly strutted into a suite at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., with a big smirk and an off-the-shoulder sequined shirt – proof that the legend's not letting her 64 years get in the way of sustaining her sexiness.

Sitting in was Stanley Tucci, who plays her gay assistant and pal (much like the actor did in "The Devil Wears Prada", alongside Meryl Streep). The two stars laughed a lot over the dirty texts they shared and the scenes they shot together. Cher also talked about her indecisiveness over doing "Burlesque", why gay men adore her, and shooting an "It Gets Better" video with daughter-turned-son Chaz Bono.

There's no question that this is an incredibly gay movie.

Cher: (Laughs) One guy said, "This is gay "Fantasia!"

How does this rank among the gayest things you have done in your career?

Cher: Not even anywhere! It doesn't even rank. I don't think of it as a gay film, but of course gay guys love musicals. And it's fun! Gay guys like to have fun, and so I think that's what it is.

Do they, Stanley?

Stanley Tucci: How would I know? (Sarcasm)

Cher: He's just an actor!

You've played gay now for Cher and Meryl Streep. Who's the better boss?

ST: (Points to Cher) Well, she's much nicer.

Cher: That's right – Meryl was horrible! (Both laugh)

Gay men have always been a big part of your career. Can you reflect on that?

Cher: I've said this many times, but I think gay men either love you or they don't even notice you're alive on the planet. And if they do love you they kind of stick with you through thick and through thin, even when you're not popular. They recognize kindred spirits that don't really fit into society, either. And, of course, there's sequins.

Cher, we haven't seen you onscreen in a long time. What about "Burlesque" drew you back?

Cher: You know, I just wanted to sing. I wanted to sing in a film. It was my heart's desire from the time I was about 4, so that's what I wanted to do. I didn't want the film (at first); this was a process. I thought that (Tess) could be a good role. It wasn't exactly what I wanted in the beginning, but she did turn out to be who I thought she should be.

What do you love about Tess?

Cher: She's my kind of girl. I love that she's working really hard and she's not getting anyplace but she's not giving up. I love the relationship she has with all the (burlesque) girls and with him (Tucci). She's a very likable character, so it's not like you're taking a big risk. In the beginning she was so not likable, and I just kept saying, "She's just complaining and she's angry with the girls and yelling at them all the time." I just thought somebody like this would've just sold the club.

One of Tess' best moments is the musical number "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me." How do you personally identify with that song?

Cher: Stanley and I were talking about this. If you've been in this business, you know what being down is, and if you keep going then you know what struggling through down means.

Many have tried to transition from pop diva to actress, and many have failed – but you were one who's

continued on page 37

arts & entertainment

STRAND THEATRE

Crosby & Nash
May 8, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: $57, $62, $67
As a duo, longtime creative partners David Crosby and Graham Nash bring out the best in each other, their distinct yet complementary styles balancing an equation that delivers a seamless and inspiring musical whole. Two-thirds and one-half, respectively, of Crosby, Stills & Nash, and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, these Rock and Roll Hall of Famers are legendary for their airtight and crystal-clear vocal harmonies, as sublime when delivered by simply these two together as they are from the larger configurations. It is a sound that's one of the true touchstones of the rock 'n' roll era.
http://www.strandcapitol.org

Lewis Black
May 14, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $52, $58, $63
Lewis Black is one of the most prolific and popular performers working today. He executes a brilliant trifecta as stand-up comedian, actor and author. Receiving critical acclaim, he performs over 200 nights a year to sell out audiences throughout Europe, New Zealand, Canada and The United States.
Lewis' live performances provide a cathartic release of anger and disillusionment for his audience. Lewis yells so they don't have to. A passionate performer who is more an irritated optimist than a mean-spirited curmudgeon, he's perfected expressing what the rest of us can not say in polite company. Lewis is the rare comic who can cause an audience to laugh themselves into incontinence while making compelling points about the absurdity of our world. It's no wonder he's been compared to Mort Sahl, Lenny Bruce, and Bill Hicks.

WHITAKER

Get The Led Out
May 14, 8 p.m.
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets are $33.50 and $29.50
The ultimate Led Zeppelin tribute act. Recommended if you like: The Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, The Yardbirds, The Black Crowes. Presented by Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.

Gypsy
June 2 & 16, 7:30 pm
June 3, 10 & 17, 8 p.m.
June 4, 11 & 18, 8 p.m.
June 5, 12 & 19, 2 p.m.
Sunoco Performance Theater
Tickets are $33, $29, $20, $15 and $12.
The classic show business fable with iconic characters, an unforgettable score and the mother of all stage mothers…one of the greatest musicals ever written. Presented by Theatre Harrisburg
Tickets 717-214-ARTS (2787).

HERSHEY THEATRE

Monkees 45th Anniversary
June 20, 7:30 p.m.
Here they come… again…hey, hey, it's The Monkees! 45 years after their groundbreaking show and hit singles first took televisions and record players by storm, original Monkees members Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz and Peter Tork have announced a new tour to dazzle five decades' worth of fans. Audiences will get a full multimedia experience celebrating nearly a half-century of the band's legacy. Jones, Dolenz and Tork will appear live on stage to perform all of their mega-hits including "I'm a Believer,""Last Train to Clarksville,""Daydream Believer,""Pleasant Valley Sunday,""(I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone,""Valleri" and, for the first time ever on stage, songs from their classic albums and rarely heard selections from their cult classic movie, Head.
Tickets: $150 (includes meet & greet), $65, $55, $45 (processing fees, 8 ticket limit)
717-534-3405; 1-800-745-3000; HersheyTheatre.com.

Two Spirits

cont'd from page 26

"The film team is working with over sixty organizations nationwide to have six million people see the film and to help expand the national conversation about gender," Nibley said.

Lois Vossen the producer and founder of Independent Lens explains, "Two Spirits is an important film that tells a modern story with deep historical roots and does so in a way that is surprising and striking. It's a film that shows humankind at both our best and worst. It's gut-wrenching at times, but also hopeful and very engaging." *Trailer: www.twosprits.org*

Info: www.pbs.org/independentlens/two-spirits

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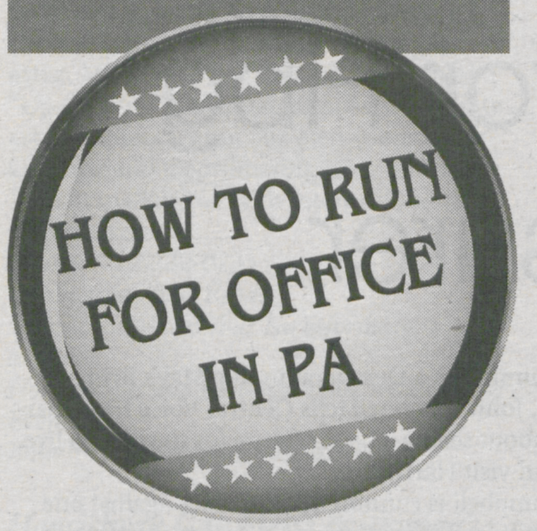


Independent Voter Resources:

- **Ever thought about running for office?**
  www.pcntv.com/htrfo_ballot.html
- **IndependentVoting.org**
  Created by Committee for a Unified Independent Party, Inc. (CUIP), a hub for the independent movement.
  www.IndependentVoting.org
- **The Hankster**
  Daily news feed of, by and for Independents across America.
  grassrootsindependent.blogspot.com
- **PA Clean Sweep**
  Non-partisan effort to reform PA state government
  www.pacleansweep.com
- **PA Ballot Access Coalition**
  PA Ballot Access Coalition, individuals and organizations devoted to democracy
  www.paballotaccess.org
- **Democracy Rising PA**
  Democracy Rising PA, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working for transparency
  www.democracyrisingpa.com
- **Common Cause- PA**
  Common Cause, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization to hold elected leaders accountable
  www.commoncause.org/PA
- **League of Women Voters**
  League of Women Voters, nonpartisan political organization, education and advocacy
  www.palwv.org
- **Fair Vote**
  FairVote, founded on principles of Declaration of Independence, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech
  www.fairvote.org

Issue Analysis:

How Do You Reform Electoral Politics?

By Frank Pizzoli

Busy is the word that comes to mind when thinking of State Rep. Eugene DePasquale, D-York. Besides just recently introducing a set of "reform" bills, DePasquale announced April 5 he will explore running for auditor general in 2012.

The four-bill "electoral politics" package of reforms hopes to improve voter turnout and give more voters a voice on Election Day. "I want to improve voter access, transparency and competition," he told Central Voice.

Independents

The first bill in his four-part package would allow voters registered as Independents to cast ballots in Pennsylvania primary elections.

"In an era where more and more voters are registering as Independents, we should not be denying those voters the chance to make their voices heard in a primary election," DePasquale said.

"This bill would allow Independents to choose which party's ballot they would like to vote on during the primary. Also, if those Independent voters would like to vote in the Democratic primary one year and the Republican primary the next, or vice versa, my legislation would give them that choice," he said.

Jennifer Bullock, founder of 12-year old Pa. Independents, agrees.

"Voter choice is what we represent," Bullock said. As of 2009 there are more than 1,000,000 Independent or unaffiliated (not registered with any political party) in the state, almost 12% of all registered voters. That number is up from 381,000 since 1994 while Democratic and Republican registration has been steadily declining.

Nationwide, polls show that 41% of college students consider themselves indies as do 35% of African Americans under the age of 30, according to IndependentVoters.org. About 40% of all Americans now self-identify as Independents, regardless of voter registration.

Bullock said "open primaries are the way to go," referring to the fact that unless an Independent or third-party candidate can get on a ballot, only registered Democrats and Republicans can vote. "The system is lopsided. In one example, it would have taken 120,000 signatures to get an Independent on the ballot while the R or D parties needed only 5,000 signatures," she points out.

Corporate accountability

The second bill, the Corporate Accountability Act, would require corporations to obtain shareholder approval before contributing an annual aggregate sum exceeding $10,000. Under current law, following the citizens United Supreme Court ruling, corporations can spend freely to influence a political campaign without the approval of shareholders. The contributions are not made known to the shareholders or the public.

On a federal level, the issue of money came to a head with the Supreme Court's January 2010 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission ruling, which essentially said "money is free speech". Most federal regulations were gutted. National Voting Rights Institute founder John Bonifaz declared at the time that the freeing of corporations to tap their general treasury funds would allow them to spend so freely that they could "effectively own our democracy." On a state level, DePasquale's bill would at least require shareholder approval.

Vote early

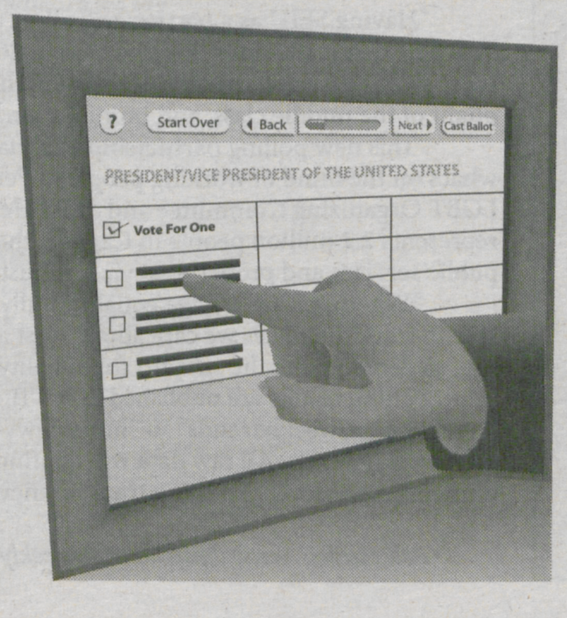
The third bill would allow for early voting in Pennsylvania. The legislation would allow all voters to cast ballots up to 15 days in advance of Election Day in both primary and general elections.

"In the most recent election, 32 states and the District of Columbia allowed their citizens to vote prior to Election Day," DePasquale said. "Now is the time to give Pennsylvanians that same opportunity while simultaneously eliminating the long lines at the polls, which can discourage voters."

DePasquale said voters taking part in early voting would have to provide photo identification and sign a certificate to confirm their participation in early voting, and the county board of elections would maintain a list of early voters to prevent fraud.

The final bill in the package, "The Voters' Choice Act," would make general election competition among all parties a reality by equalizing the ability of Independent and third-party candidates to run for public office in Pennsylvania. "The act would give greater freedom of choice to our voters by making it much less difficult for independent and third-party candidates to get on the November ballot," DePasquale said.

"The VCA would change the way a third party is legally defined and remove the too-high barrier of third parties, giving general election voters more choice and strengthening competition."



Are Tea Party and Independents Mirror Images?

"No, the Tea Party and the Independent movements are not mirror images on opposite ends of a continuum," Pa. Independents founder Jennifer Bullock says. She clarifies that the Tea Party exists "inside the larger Republican party. They're angry at Republicans and want to reform them." Not so for Independents. "We're anti-party. We're not interested in reforming either party. We want to be a full-fledge alternative to the tired two-party system," she said. Her organization has about 500 participants statewide, mostly from Phila. and collar counties. "So far we have about 2,500 names on a petition calling for open primaries. It's not a legal document but a sign of how many people support the effort," Bullock said, adding "It's not a fair or democratic system".

Info: independentpa@gmail.com

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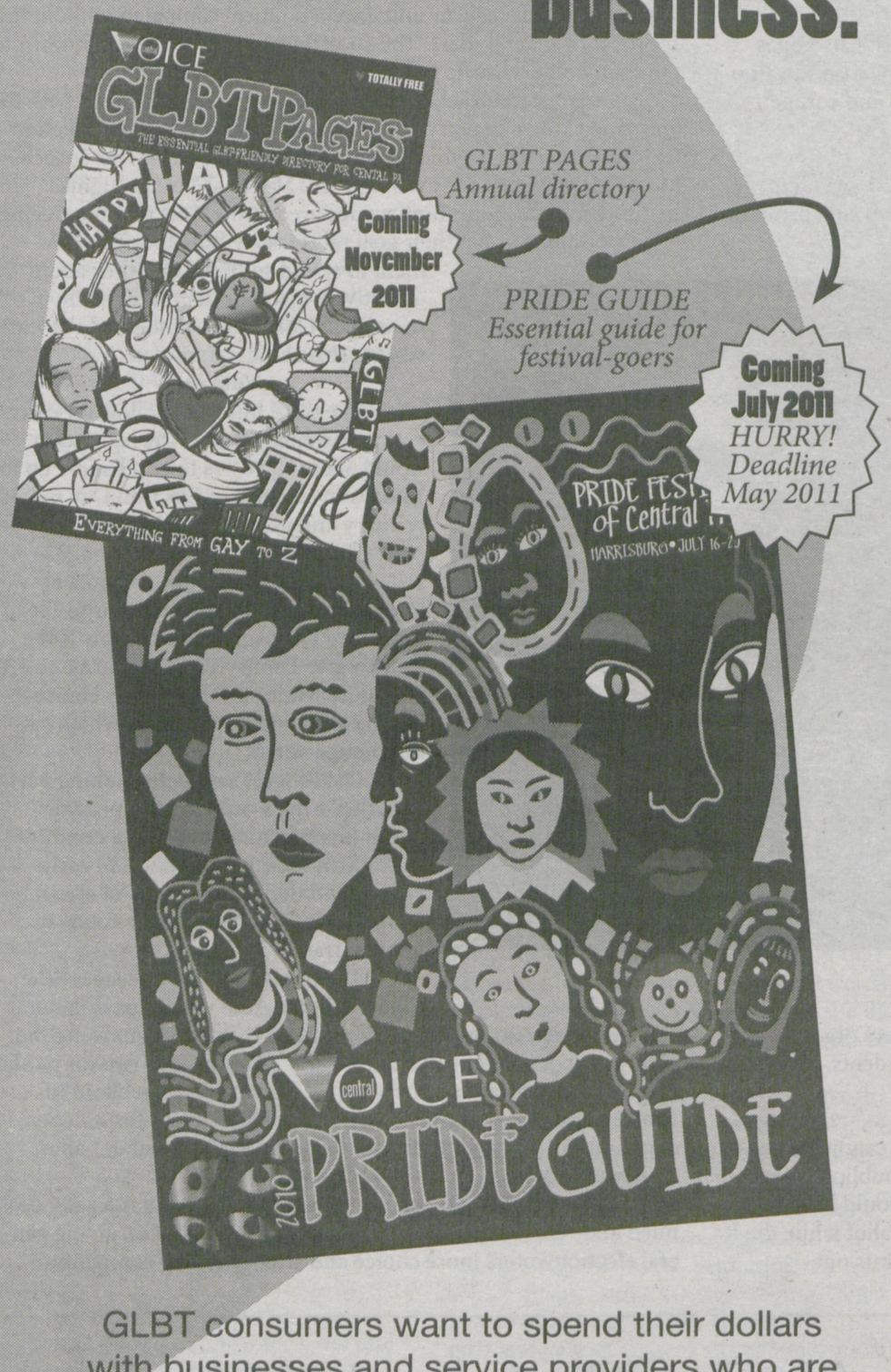

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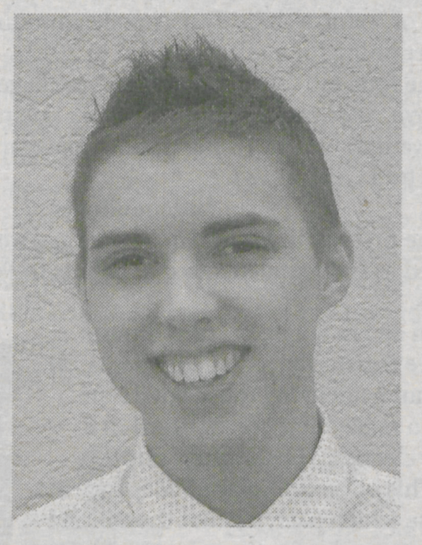
John Campbell Running for Hbg City Treasurer



Running as a Democrat in this May's Primary Election, John Campbell tells Central Voice he is "passionate about seeing a better future for those who live, work, and visit Harrisburg."

Campbell is running for the office against one other candidate, Steve Ketterer. Current city treasurer Paul Wambach is retiring, leaving the seat vacant.

Campbell cites experience as executive director of the Historic Harrisburg Association and CEO of the city's Broad Street Market that will allow him "to integrate and modernize applications to better the experience when visiting the treasurer's office."

He hopes to increase accessibility and to make online bill payment available. "With my experience in banking I will ensure proper procedures and safeguards are in place to protect taxpayers' interest."

Public service, Campbell said, "is complete dedication and respect for those you serve.

I will work with the understanding that every resident is entitled to respect and courtesy while completing the revenue cycle with appropriate collections."

Campbell is also well known with the region's lgbt community, having served a member of the Harrisburg Area Community College Allies and the newly established HACC Allies LGBT Scholarship Fund. He currently serves as treasurer of the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, and has volunteered with the LGBT Community Center Coalition.

Polling Partnership cont'd from page 1

Take marriage equality for example.

"It's hard to push for marriage equality at the national level, since we know the American people aren't there yet," Moulitsas said. "We also know the numbers are moving in the right direction, and at some point in the next five to 10 years I suspect we'll hit critical mass and can make a full-throated push to right that wrong knowing we have the American people behind us."

Moulitsas contrasts his effort with conservatives "who have constructed a reality-bending bubble so strong, that they have convinced themselves that Obama was born in Kenya, that the health care law wants to kill their grandmothers, and that $100 billion in budget cuts would balance a trillion-dollar deficit."

"Having SEIU as a partner will allow us to expand efforts even further," he said. "We'll be doing 100 polls this year, 150 in 2012. The polls will keep tabs on hot political races and ask Americans questions about their leaders and key issues like gay rights, the plight of the middle class, and immigration," Moulitsas said.

"This new polling partnership will make sure that elected officials will really know what's on the mind of working people in Pennsylvania," said Adanjesus Marin, Lancaster LGBT Organizing Committee and SEIU Healthcare PA executive board member. SEIU represents 2.2 million people in Canada, the US and Puerto Rico who work in healthcare, public services and property services industries.

"Whether it's marriage equality, bullying or non-discrimination ordinances, we'll be able to track the issues we care about most at the state and local level and use that information to demonstrate the support for equality amongst Pennsylvanians," Marin said.

Polling results are published every Tuesday morning at HYPERLINK "http://www.dailykos.com/weeklytrends" \o "http://www.dailykos.com/weeklytrends" www.dailykos.com/weeklytrends. All raw data will continue to be included in the results to ensure an unprecedented level of polling transparency.

Poll results: www.dailykos.com/weeklytrends

social organizations & recreational clubs

Gay & Lesbian Artisan Pride
Discuss topics important to today's gay artist, Mentoring and nuturing growth of "Up Coming" and amateur artists, Promote art awareness within our own community, Creating and Coordinating group shows. Please email or call with interest/Questions/ Comments.
Phone: (717)732-0233
Contact: Michael Reed
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Calls and Emails Can be made Days/ Evenings
Email: mreeddesigns@yahoo.com

Harrisburg Gay Men's & Women's Volleyball
3rd and Bridge St
New Cumberland, PA
Phone: 717.233.3172
Contact: Jim
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

Baughman United Methodist Church
Harrisburg Ladies Night Out
New Cumberland. Cost: $2.50
PO Box 266
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717.232.8382
Contact: Judy Chambers
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available

HOWL
HOWL hanging out with lesbians. Group of 140 women.
Contact: Gina Bowers-Miller
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: howlofpa@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.homestead.com/howlofpa/index.hmtl
Other web address http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howlofpa/ to join

Lambda Car Club Int'l Central PA Region
Organization of GLBT people who are interested in collectable automobiles
Contact: Robert Miller, President
1721 Logan St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102
PH: 610 496-5651
3623 Green Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717.238.9766
Contact: John Ball
Wheelchair Accessible: no
Hours: Meet monthly at different members houses, call for info
Email: buickbum2@aol.com

Rainbow Pride Rural Project
This project intends to create support for the GLBT community living in rural York, Juniata, Mifflin and Perry Counties. It is funded by the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and housed within Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit located in uptown Harrisburg, Pa.
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-2127
Phone: 717-236-7387
Contact: Kevin E. Burrell
Wheelchair Accessible: Yes
Email: kevinb2004@msn.com

Students Advocating LGBTA Equality
Shippensburg University Cumberland Union Building
Box 89
Shippensburg, Pa 17265
Phone: 717-477-1616
Contact: Travis Eichelberger
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: susale@gmail.com
Website: www.ship.edu/~msa/SALE.htm

Susquehanna Club
Group camping open to LGBT people and their friends.
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: camp@susq.org
Website: www.susq.org

Susquehanna Valley Bears
PO Box 11, Manchester, PA 17345
Contact: Matt S.
Wheelchair Accessible: No Info Available
Email: daddyscub@comcast.net
Website: www.svbears.com

The Pennsmen, Inc
The Pennsmen, Inc are Central PA's glbt leather/levi/kink social organization. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the Neptune Lounge @ 3:00pm
PO Box 401
HARRISBURG, PA 17108-0401
Phone: 717-232-3785
Contact: Steven James
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Evenings
Email: pennsmen@pennsmen.org
Website: www.pennsmen.org

The Rainbow Bowling League
The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. We bowl out of the ABC East Lanes on Eisenhower Blvd in Harrisburg and are considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We would like to invite anyone interested in joining or you have friends that are interested in bowling on Thursday evenings. Call for more details. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes.
Phone: 763-8444
Contact: Mark or Robert
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Hours: Thursday 8:45 P.M.

Women's Circle
c/o Bobbi Carmitchell
Locust Lane Music, P.O. Box 8301
Lancaster, Pa 17604
Phone: 717.872.4512
Contact: Bobbi Carmitchell
Wheelchair Accessible: No information available
Email: bobbi@womenscircle.org
Website: www.womenscircle.org

Prexy Candidate Tim Pawlenty Tough on Gays

Minnesota governor, Tim Pawlenty, has been traveling to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. He is lining up his consultants and raising money in anticipation of his run for the Republican nomination for President in 2012.

The Wonk Room listed eight things everyone should know about Pawlenty and the lgbt community.

1. Pawlenty proudly opposes recognition of any same-sex unions: In a recent interview on FOX News, he told Greta Van Susteren that he will "never be at the point where I say all domestic relationship[s] are the same as traditional marriage. They are not." He similarly bragged to the American Family Association's Bryan Fischer in January about helping to craft a same-sex marriage ban in Minnesota. As part of his recent tour of speeches in Iowa, he also endorsed The Family Leader, a conservative group who promotes the idea that same-sex marriage is worse for people's health than smoking.

2. Pawlenty supports maintaining Don't Ask Don't Tell, rescinding funding to implement its repeal, and perhaps not allowing gays and lesbians to serve at all: In January, he stated he would support reinstating the policy and that doing so would have no impact. Then, in February, he added that he would support rescinding the funding for its repeal as "a reasonable step." He also refused to indicate whether he thinks gay and lesbian troops should have the right to serve in the military whatsoever.

3. Pawlenty regrets his vote as a state legislator supporting nondiscrimination protections based on gender identity: Citing its protection of "cross-dressing" and how confusing it would be for third-graders if Mr. Johnson showed up the next day as Mrs. Johnson, Pawlenty lamented his 1993 vote in support of the antidiscrimination law, earning the ire of LGBT groups for his distasteful remarks.

4. Pawlenty vetoed a bill extending end-of-life rights to same-sex couples: As a result of his veto, same-sex couples in Minnesota still have to go through the process of setting up a will to be protected if one partner dies. In addition, same-sex couples continue to be limited in the ability to seek restitution for wrongful death.

5. Pawlenty vetoed an anti-bullying bill adding sexual orientation and gender identity to Minnesota's bullying policies and training: Despite numerous concessions made to get the governor's support, he still vetoed the bill, claiming it was redundant and ignoring the new protections it offered the state's lgbt students.

6. In 2001, Pawlenty opposed labor unions' efforts to offer benefits to employees' same-sex partners: The controversy led to a union strike in the fall of 2001, and then in February of 2003, the unions were forced to accept a compromise that stripped benefits from 85 same-sex partners who had previously been receiving them. [Star Tribune, 10/4/2001 and 2/18/03]

7. Pawlenty vetoed a bill allowing local municipalities in Minnesota to offer domestic partner benefits: The bill would have allowed cities, counties, and school districts to offer domestic partner benefits in the same way more than 300 private companies already do in the state.

8. Pawlenty vetoed a bill allowing state employees to use their accrued sick leave to take care of seriously ill family members: Domestic partners were removed from the bill in hopes that it would prevent a veto, but Pawlenty vetoed it anyway, stating that it would cost too much.

80%

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stevek@pressandjournal.com

10 Teen Novels Tackle Suicide and Bullying

By Collin Kelley

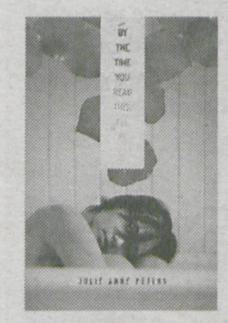
From marriage equality in California to gay adoption in Florida to the ongoing wrangle over the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, LGBT rights are front and center on the national stage. What has also come to light under this new media spotlight is the bullying and suicides of LGBT teens.

In September, the suicide of 18-year-old Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi was a tragic close to a shocking month of gay teens taking their own lives. Clementi's dormmate secretly recorded the teen having sex with another man, sent out messages on Twitter and broadcast it across the Internet. Clementi jumped from the George Washington Bridge.

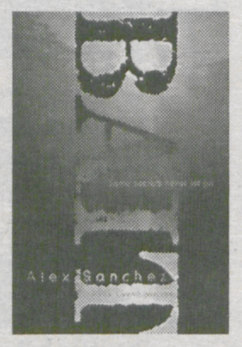
Clementi's death also brought attention to three other teen suicides – Seth Walsh, Asher Brown and Billy Lucas – that occurred in September. All had been bullied over their sexuality. Sadly, these publicized suicides are just some of the ones we know about. It is uncertain how many more LGBT teens have taken their lives because of bullying – either physically or via the Internet.

The media glare has revealed that bullying is an epidemic in this country, but LGBT writers have long been tackling the issue in the pages of their books. In my own novel, Conquering Venus ($14.95, Vanilla Heart), the story is set in motion by the suicide of a high school student, Peter, fearful that family and friends will abandon him if they discover he is gay. Peter's boyfriend, Martin, goes to Paris to try and move on with his life, but meets another young man tormented by his sexuality who seems to be heading down the same irrevocable path.

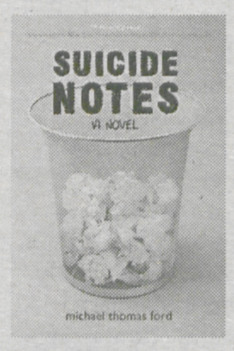
Here are 10 books for teens – and adults – that confront bullying and suicide in frank language and tone, not to mention providing hope that it does indeed get better.



By the Time You Read This, I'll Be Dead by Julie Anne Peters ($16.99, Hyperion). A bullied high school student trolls a suicide "completers" website determined to get it "right" after several botched attempts. Then she meets a young man dying of cancer, who is just as determined to make sure she lives. Peters includes information about suicide prevention at the end of the novel.



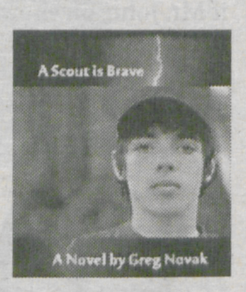
Bait by Alex Sanchez ($7.99, Simon & Schuster) Told from the prospective of the bully, Sanchez charts the course of a 16-year-old coming to terms with his abusive past after he is arrested for assaulting a gay teen.



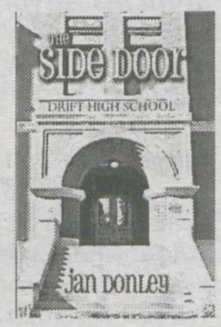
Suicide Notes by Michael Thomas Ford ($8.00, Harper-Teen) A 15-year-old tries to commit suicide and wakes up in a juvenile psych ward where he confront his burgeoning sexuality with the help of three other teens.

Parrotfish by Ellen Wittlinger ($17.99, Simon & Schuster) A transgendered high school student gets support from his family while trying to defend himself from bullies and act on his attraction to the hottest girl in school.

Down to the Bone by Mayra Lazara Dole ($16.99, Harper-Teen) A Cuban-American girl in a Catholic school is expelled and abandoned by her mother after they discover she is a lesbian.

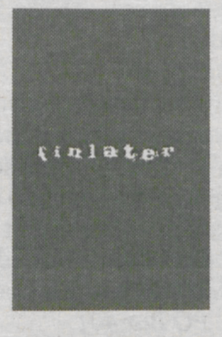


A Scout is Brave by Greg Novak ($3.99, Amazon Kindle exclusive) A Native American is bullied at a Boy Scout summer camp as he faces his own sexuality and the traditions of his family.



The Side Door by Jan Donley ($14.95, Spinsters Ink) A teen gets bullied after coming out at her high school, and tries to uncover the secret behind the suicide of another bullied teen whose death has been hushed up by the small town.

Freak Show by James St. James ($8.99, Puffin) Teenage drag queen Billy (or "gender obscurist" as he calls himself) faced down bullies as he seeks to become the homecoming queen at his conservative high school.



Finlater by Shawn Stewart Ruff ($15.50, Quote) A book for older teens and adults, this story of a young African American teen and his Jewish boyfriend in 1969 is sexually frank and shows that bigotry and bullying roots are deep.

Hello, Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws by Kate Bornstein ($16.95, Seven Stories Press). Okay, this isn't a novel, but it's definitely a book for bullied teens that belongs on any list. The celebrated transgender writer offers up suggestions from the witty to the controversial, but all with one simple message: "Don't be mean."

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Collin Kelley's debut novel, Conquering Venus, is out now. A Georgia Author of the Year Award-winner and Pushcart Prize nominee, Kelley is also the author of three books of poetry – Better To Travel, Slow To Burn and After the Poison. www.collinkelley.com

Insurance Co. Refuses Payment for Lesbian Couple

On Labor Day weekend 2010, Laura and Carol Ann Stutte's rural Tennessee home was burned to the ground in what the Knoxville News-Sentinel today termed "an apparent hate crime."

Six months later, the lesbian couple's $206,000 homeowners policy remains unpaid and the Springfield, Missouri, insurance company that owns the policy - American National Property and Casualty (ANPAC) - shows no signs of following through on their obligations. The company is a subsidiary of the larger insurance conglomerate American National Insurance Company (Nasdaq: ANAT), with a net income in 2010 of over $35 billion.

The arson fire was preceded by months of death threats from a neighbor and as the couple's "dream home" went up in smoke, an adjacent, detached garage stood with the word "QUEERS" spray-painted on the side in giant black letters. Adding insult to injury, the couple now not only has to deal with the criminal investigation into the case but also an insurance claim that remains filed, but has gone unpaid.

While the couple worked to find a temporary place to live, they filed a claim with their insurance company – ANPAC, based in Galveston, Texas. To date, the carrier refuses to pay out their homeowners policy and refuses to pay the couple's living expenses in full, as detailed in a policy rider - even though the insurance company acknowledges that the couple continues to pay the premiums for their policy.

When questioned by the Knoxville News Sentinel, ANPAC's attorney, Mark Kinsman, refused comment stating that he's "not authorized to discuss the issue."

The couple has been pressuring the company, privately and publicly, to honor their policy while the local community has chipped in to help the couple make ends meet and to provide a new insulin pump for their diabetic daughter. Now living in hiding for fear of their neighbor finding them and killing the couple, as threatened, they have created an online petition on Change.org asking the insurance company to pay the claim. The petition has garnered over 27,000 signatures from across the country.

Petition: http://www.change.org/petitions/demand-insurance-company-pay-lesbian-arson-victims.

Margaret Held, the couple's lawyer, said, "Not only have my clients been injured by the woman who appears to have terrorized them and burned down their house, they are now being injured by the insurance company that refuses to pay the claim and by the criminal investigators who refuse to share any information regarding their findings with the victims of the crime. Our legal process should work a lot better than this."

Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act Reintroduced

47%

47%. That's the unbearable percentage of transgender people who report being fired, or denied a job or promotion, just because of who they are. Recently, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was reintroduced in the US House of Representatives. The bill would protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees from workplace discrimination, and the protections it would offer are urgently needed.

ENDA would make it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Despite the tremendous discrimination that transgender workers face, only 12 states and Washington, DC currently protect transgender people from employment discrimination.

Simply Cher cont'd from page 32

done it spectacularly. What advice did you have for Christina?

ST: It's not going to work for Christina. We've discussed this, and Christina knows it. (Laughs)

Cher: (Laughs) I think a couple of things had to happen for her to feel comfortable with me, because she didn't know me. We met a week before (filming began), and she had to realize that I was going to be there to support her and not do any kind of weird actress crap. I really saw as we went on, our scenes together just got better and better. I think she really has the talent to keep going.

I would've never done this (as my first film). The first thing that was on film (in my acting career) was an ensemble piece, but the first thing that was a film (1983's "Silkwood"), I had no idea what I was doing and I was holding (Meryl Streep's) hand through it.

How do you think your performance playing gay in "Silkwood" stands up to gay characters now?

Cher: I don't think you "play gay."

ST: You don't.

Cher: I didn't. If you look at her, she was just a person, and you just play a person. I think for Stanley it was more of a stretch, but the truth is we giggle like (we did in) that first scene all the time. He makes me laugh hysterically, and I just don't think you play that. (Looks at Tucci) I don't think in "The Lovely Bones" you played a murderer; you played a person.

How was it for you and Stanley to connect as characters?

Cher: We don't get along to this day! (Laughs)

ST: It was awful; they're paying me for these interviews. (Laughs) It was great. I was very nervous to meet Cher, there's no doubt about it. But once we started working, we got along very well and we had a great time. In fact, they had to wrangle us in to keep us from laughing all the time.

Did you improvise while filming?

Cher: There's that part where we're at the rack hanging clothes and at the end he grabs me with his legs – that was so not expected! (Laughs)

ST: (Laughs) No one would actually write that in the script.

Cher: I remember when I opened the rack and he looked at me, I just started laughing hysterically. That wasn't in (the movie). We would go off on our little tangents. It was fun for us and I think when you're having fun on the screen, people get it.

Some of the best scenes in the film are the ones you both share. What was it like off-screen?

ST: What you saw onscreen is exactly what was happening off-screen, and I'm not kidding. Whatever that relationship was is the relationship that this is.

Cher: He makes me laugh hysterically, and I just make him roll his eyes and smile. That's the truth. (Both laugh)

ST: It's true, because she's really filthy.

Cher: No, it's not true! I swear!

ST: I'm going to show you a text... (Laughs)

Cher: We do have several texts that I hope never see the light of day.

Cher, did you get to wear any Bob Mackie?

Cher: One (for the number) "Welcome to Burlesque." That was done specially for the film; I just don't happen to have those things (in my closet). I have a lot. In my auction I gave the ones I didn't really love away, but the ones I love, I'm going to keep them until they fall apart.

You wore something to the MTV Video Music Awards this year that was very similar to the outfit in the "If I Could Turn Back Time" video. Was that planned?

Cher: I wear that every night (laughs). I just had it and I didn't have time to think of an outfit and thought it would be fun.

What's next for you?

Cher: There's an album, but I haven't been able to get to it. That's going to be the next thing I really want to do – unless a movie with Stanley comes up.

You also voice a character in 2011's animated film "Zookeeper".

Cher: Yeah, I play a lioness: Sylvester Stallone's wife (laughs). It's not a big part; it was my first voiceover and it was really great. That's how they cornered me, because when I came out – I had been there for hours and I was really tired and I walked out the door – there was Steven (Antin, the "Burlesque" director) and Clint (Culpepper, president of Screen Gems). Clint got down on one knee and said, "You have to come to the office!" And so I did.

Clint said you tried to pull out of the film. Was that only because of the character?

Cher: Yeah. In life I don't know what I want nearly as much as what I want in a character. I complained a lot about the hours – we had many 16-hour days in heels. It was hard.

Are there plans to film a video with Chaz for the "It Gets Better" campaign directed toward LGBT youth?

Cher: We haven't talked about it. She's been... she, I do this all the time; the pronouns are just fucked. He's doing the documentary and this book, so that's been taking up all the time.

Looking back at your early career, what advice would you give yourself?

Cher: Shut my mouth! (Laughs)

ST: You would shut your mouth?

Cher: Yeah, I would shut my mouth a lot more than I have in my life. I wouldn't have done anything different because you just do what you do, sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. You just have to keep going. Mistakes are just mistakes.

Wall Street Gets It

Recently six of Wall Street's major banks - Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Barclays, Citi, Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank and Morgan Stanley—joined Out on the Street, a summit convened to discuss issues vital to the lgbt community.

Deutsche Bank hosted the inaugural summit which focused on issues of culture change, recruitment, client development and driving business impact during four panel discussions.

"Deutsche Bank is thrilled to be part of the first-ever Out on the Street Summit. We are particularly proud of our own efforts on the lgbt front, yet we know that by collaborating with our Wall Street peers we will collectively be able to make even more progress going forward. By doing so, we can all ensure that Wall Street continues to be an employer of choice for the lgbt community," said Mark Chamberlain, Head of Diversity, Americas, Deutsche Bank.

A conference on such issues would not have secured the participation of successful, high-level executives a decade ago.

"Being a successful global business leader means having a workforce that is reflective of the diverse clients we serve," said Tom Montag, president, Global Banking and Markets, Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "By instilling an inclusive and diverse culture in which everyone feels valued and secure, we will continue to attract and retain the best people who can perform at their greatest ability."

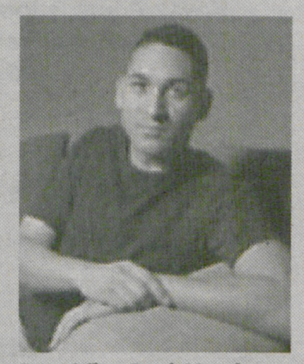
Todd Sears diversity leader and banker, conceived of the idea for the summit and helped to bring the banks together. "The response has been overwhelming, and we've already had interest from a number of additional banks for 2012. The fact that so many senior executives from these six banks are committed to the event, shows that these issues matter to the business, not just human resources and diversity," Sears said.

"Citi is proud to sponsor the event and help bring Wall Street's collective voices together to foster support and inclusion of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community as employees, clients, suppliers and community partners," said panelist Bonnie Howard, Chief Auditor, Citi.

"This dynamic forum is a great way to demonstrate the commitment of senior leaders to promoting an inclusive work environment where all employees can develop, contribute and succeed."

Latest DADT Numbers Released; Officer Morodo Retained

After nearly six hours before a hearing board at Lemoore Naval Air Station, openly gay US Navy Petty Officer Derek Morado received an unanimous 3-0 recommendation for retention. The vote comes after Morado faced a discharge hearing for violating recently repealed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.



Petty Officer Derek Morado
Photo courtesy Craig Kohlruss, The Fresno Bee

The total official number of DADT discharges for Fiscal Year 2010 was 261. The annual fiscal year DADT discharge statistic combines the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Defense, which was 250, with the total number of discharges reported by the Department of Homeland Security for the Coast Guard, which was 11.

"While this latest official discharge number represents an all-time annual low, it is still unusually high considering that the Secretary of Defense issued a directive half-way through the fiscal year to make it much harder for military units to discharge troops under DADT"" said Alexander Nicholson, Executive Director of Servicemembers United. "Despite this law clearly being on its deathbed at the time, 261 more careers were terminated and 261 more lives were abruptly turned upside down because of this policy."

While these annual figures released by the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security are used to calculate the official DADT discharge statistics, which now stand at grand total of 13,686, Servicemembers United previously reported that the Department of Defense does not actually release information on all discharges under DADT. National Guard discharge numbers, which have yet to be released for fiscal year 2010, are often omitted from the official annual discharge numbers reported by the DOD. This means that the total unofficial number of service members discharged under DADT is now at least 14, 316. *Info: www.DADTArchive.org.*

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Open Stage Presents August: Osage County

Open Stage of Harrisburg continues it's 25th Anniversary Season with August: Osage County, Tracy Lett's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-Winning running through May 8.

The 2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play that tells the bitingly funny and sensationally entertaining tale of the Weston family of Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

The play stars Open Stage Educational Director Anne Alsedek in the role of the family matriarch, Violet. Joining Mrs. Alsedek are Brenda C. Eppley as Barbara Fordham, Jim Lewis as Beverly Weston, Judy Valentine as Mattie Fae Aiken, David Olmsted as Little Charles, Gail Tierney as Jean Fordham, Anthony Leukus as Steve Heidebrecht, Brian Schreffler as Charlie Aiken, Paris Peet as Bill Fordham, Kimorie Cherry as Johnna Monevata, Valerie Smith as Ivy Weston, Lisa Haywood as Karen Weston and Jon Liebetrau as Sheriff Deon Gilbeau.

Written by 2008 Pulitzer Prize-winner Tracy Letts, this epic and gripping play tells the story of the Westons, a large extended clan that comes together at their rural Oklahoma homestead after the alcoholic patriarch disappears. Forced to confront scarring secrets, the family must also contend with Violet, a drugged-up, deeply unsettled personality at the center of the familial storm.

"The play is a stupendous undertaking for us and a rare, epic treat. It's a large-scale play, with an complex set, thirteen intriguing characters, and a powerful story," says Don Alsedek, Open Stage Executive Artistic Director and the director of the three act play. "Tracy Letts' play will thrill our audiences."

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY premiered and was produced at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago in 2007. Nominated for seven Tony Awards and winning five, including Best Play, along with Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and New York Drama Critics Circle Awards, including Best Play, AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY opened at the Imperial Theatre Broadway on December 4, 2007, to wide critical acclaim. The New York Times called AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY "The most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years," and "bet the farm that no family has ever been as unhappy in as many ways—and to such sensationally entertaining effect—as the Westons of AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY". The play was voted The #1 Play of the Year by Time, The Associated Press, Entertainment Weekly, and TimeOut New York. The show, which the London critics hailed as "the must-see play of the year - possibly a lifetime,"opened to rave reviews at The National Theatre on November 26, 2008.

The Open Stage production creative team includes Jim Woland (sets), Gwen Alsedek (costumes), and Nick Marino (lights).

Tickets:Regular and $21 for Students with ID. Advance Tickets online at www.openstagehbg.com, call 717-232-1505 or walk-up Mon.-Fri. 12:30 to 3 p.m. at box office, located in the Open Stage lobby.

The theatre lobby opens one hour prior to performance. This season is funded, in part, by the Cultural Enrichment Fund, the capital region's united arts fund. Open Stage of Harrisburg is a Constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for American theatre.

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All Request Night
on the dance floor

SATURDAY NIGHTS
Weekend Dance Party

SUNDAY NIGHTS
Big Mouth Bingo
with Biscuit 8 pm

Upcoming Events ... Don't Miss Out

THURSDAY, MAY 5
Cinco de Maya Celebration

SATURDAY, MAY 28
Memorial Day Weekend
Party

FRIDAY, JUNE 10
Flash Back Dance Party
Hits of the '70s, '80s & '90s

SATURDAY, JUNE 18
Guest DJ Atom Bomb

EVERY WAY IS A-OK

It's What Makes a Subaru, a Subaru.

2011 Subaru Forester. The small SUV unlike any other, with All-Wheel Drive and a 5-Star Goverment Crash Test Rating. Built to help you avoid accidents.

The ABC's of Safety: Air bags. Buckle up. Children in backseat. Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Adminstration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). See safercar.gov for details.

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Faulkner

TO BE SURE.

Faulkner Subaru

3233 Paxton Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111 **Phone 717-564-4545**

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Evelyn Bertoni, Sales Representative

www.faulknersubaru.com

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